

EDMONTONIA Best morning radio show Best radio personality Best TV weatherperson Best TV news anchor Best local TV station Best local radio station Best cultural institution Best use of taxpayers' money Most effective local politician Most useful local website Favourite Edmontonian Best local athlete Best local musical act Most creative Edmontonian Best new trends Worst new trends Scariest intersection Best place to people watch Best place to take visitors Sexiest Edmonton male Sexiest Edmonton female **GETTING OUT** Best dance club Best live venue Best bar Best neighborhood pub Best gay bar Best comedy club Best karaoke bar Best place to shoot pool Best gym Best place to get pampered Best internet café Best yoga studio Best place to skateboard Best place to pick someone up Swankiest bathrooms Skankiest bathrooms Best art gallery Best live theatre venue Best local golf course Most comfortable movie theatre Best place to get a pint Best spa **EAT/DRINKS** Best fries Best poutine Best burger Best pizza Best old standby Best perogies Best seafood Best coffeehouse Best vegetarian Best patio Best place to watch sports Sexiest bar servers Sexiest bar clientele Best bar service Best Indian Best Korean Best Ca' in Best Japanese Best Italian Best Greek Best Chinese Best Mexican Best Thai Best Vietnamese Best desserts Best organic food store Best bakery Best deli Best steak Best bistro Best lunch to go Best breakfast Best martini Best late-night eats Best dining Best beer selection Best wine list **SHOPPING** Best optical store Best wine store Best shopping district Best place to buy vinyl Best clothing store (new) Best cd store (used) Best DVD store Best independent Best electronics store Best car stereo store Best computer store Best home decor store Best women's clothing store Best independent Best vintage clothing store Best hair stylist/salon for women Best hair outdoor gear Best furniture store Best beauty parlour Best piercing studio Best music Best for yoga gear Best consignment store Best florist Best cannabis/hemp shop Best kitchen store Best laundromat Best organic supermarket Best jewellery store Best lingerie store Best fetish wear Best sex supply store Best adult video store

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MAY 29, 2008
ISSUE 757



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7 news **SUNCOR SPILLS OIL IN NORTHERN RIVER** Water from tailings ponds seeping into the Athabasca.

10 commentary **TAX WHINERS AND RENTERS, UNITE!**

PUBLISHER Todd Kozlowski | tkozlowski@seemagazine.ca
EDITOR Kevin Wilson | kwilson@seemagazine.ca
ART DIRECTOR Chui-Ann Jeong | cjeong@seemagazine.ca
PROMOTIONS/SALES MANAGER Jeff Mah | jmah@seemagazine.ca

ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR (ARTS, FILM) Paul Matychuk | pmatychuk@seemagazine.ca
MUSIC AND CITY LIFE EDITOR Fawnda Minnash | fminnash@seemagazine.ca
NEWS WRITER Angela Brunschot | abunschot@seemagazine.ca

SALES CONSULTANT (SOUTH) Shawna Howe | showe@seemagazine.ca
SALES CONSULTANT (NORTH) Robyn Chaves | rchaves@seemagazine.ca
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR Erin Callinow | ecallinow@seemagazine.ca
PROMOTIONS ASSISTANT Fay Pelletier | fpelletier@seemagazine.ca
NATIONAL ADVERTISING: Ian Frolic, Magazine Network | ian@magnetwork.com
DESIGNER Michael Nunweiler | mnunweiler@seemagazine.ca
DISTRIBUTION ASSISTANT Shane Bennett
PRODUCTION EDITOR Sandra Edwards
PRODUCTION TEAM Barb Polakowski, Christina Haggitt, Lon Mitchell, Kris Deardorff

see magazine is located at:
#200, 10275 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 1X8
TEL: (780) 430-9003
FAX: (780) 432-1102
e-mail: info@seemagazine.ca
Publication Mail Agreement No. 40039528
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25 Christman Avenue, St. Albert, Alberta, T8N 5A5
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OFFICIAL SPONSOR OF THE 2008 WESTERN CANADIAN MUSIC AWARDS

If rent increases were tied to tax increases, and if bedroom communities had to chip in for the services they use, tax fighters would be singing a different tune.

11 city life **UNSERIOUSLY INSTITUTIONALIZED**

Institute Parachute can't decide whether or not to take themselves seriously, but they don't seem too worried about it.

18 music **BANDS TURNED TO BEACHED WHALES**

We examine the once mighty punk rock bands that have washed up on the shore of musical bathos and redundancy.

52 on screen **SOON THEY WILL MAKE ONE ABOUT DEAD DUCKS**

Laura Dunn's latest doc examines the consequences of industrial overdevelopment.

58 arts **DEAR PAL: I LOVE YOU**

David Belke classic asks: If friends fall in love, are they still friends?

61 savage love **MASTURBATING MAN: MARRIAGE MATERIAL?**

If you can't explain to your wife why you prefer your right hand to her, a divorce is inevitable.

66 the back **ASSORTED GOODIES**

Comics, crossword, and more.

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BEST OF EDMONTON

The results are in! And so are our expert and critic picks. Disagree and enjoy at will.



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BEST PLACE TO EXPERIENCE CHAOS THEORY IN ACTION | BOE, PAGE 26

“ AROUND 5 PM EACH WEEKDAY, WORK-WEARY DRIVERS TURN THE TRAFFIC CIRCLE AT 118 AVENUE, 101 STREET AND PRINCESS ELIZABETH INTO A HONKING, SEETHING MODEL OF CHAOS THEORY.

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The Squeegie Bandit, Dreamspeakers Festival, Metro Cinema, June 5

JUNE 1

stage | **BETWEEN YOURSELF AND ME** Well, Calendar has been thinking about asking Calendar's best friend out to the 2 pm matinee of David Belke's lovely comedy at the Varcona Theatre. Maybe Calendar will work up the nerve to explain how Calendar really feels...

JUNE 2

film/bikes | **JUNE IS BIKE MONTH: A SUNDAY IN HELL** The first of four bike movie Mondays in June at the Metro Cinema, featuring this classic 1976 film about the punishing Paris-Roubaix road race. More information about Bike Month events at bikeology.ca. 7:30 pm

JUNE 3

music | **FAKE SHARK REAL ZOMBIE / MINDLESS SELF-INDULGENCE / THE BIRTHDAY MASSACRE** Calendar was going to see Tom Jones, but this bill at the Starlite sounds too much like a haiku to pass up.

JUNE 4

marathon | **BEST OF EDMONTON MARATHON** This is an unofficial event, during which Calendar attempts to visit / patronize all of the Best of Edmonton winners in a single day. It's demanding, but so rewarding.

JUNE 5

music | **DREAMSPEAKERS: SQUEEGEE BANDIT** Starfish doesn't sound like any of the squeegie artists Calendar knows. No offence, squeegie artists Calendar knows: Starfish, the Maori squeegie guy sounds a lot more interesting... and scarier. Metro Cinema, 9 pm. More info at dreamspeakers.org.

JUNE 6

music | **IRON MAIDEN** "Look out now, baby won't you take me away / Sittin' here its gonna be a new day / Gotta sing my song and I can't go wrong / Gotta keep on roaming, gotta sing my song." Metalmen fulfill their manifest destiny. Rexall Place.

JUNE 7

festival | **HEART OF THE CITY FESTIVAL** Calendar loves a cute festival. "Cute" in the "Let's spend a day in a comfy Giovanni Caboto park listening to music and getting the kids' faces painted" sense. The kind of festival that doesn't turn a park into a parking lot. Info at www.hotcmf.com.

JUNE 8

music | **KD LANG** If you missed seeing her at the Sidetrack back in the day for peanuts, this is probably your last chance to see kd live for anything under \$80. Act now to avoid disappointment. Jubilee Auditorium, 7:30 pm.

JUNE 10

theatre | **13 ENCOUNTERS** Birds and fish fall in love. Down the street, one lover up and decides to wash the dishes—every one. In the meantime, a father contemplates abandoning his family. Just a few of the encounters in Nicole Schafrenacker's NextFest show. Roxy Theatre, 8 pm.

JUNE 11

preening | **PREPARING TO BE RECOGNIZED** Calendar wants to look good on Thursday when the SEE Summer Fashion Issue comes out. Does Calendar's ass look huge in this?

JUNE 12

film | **THE HOLLYWOOD LIBRARIAN** Which are you, librarians: misanthropic organization freaks, or repressed sex fiends? Those are the only two choices, according to the movies we've seen. This documentary will "explore" Hollywood representations, but we know what you're like. Metro Cinema.

JUNE 13

music | **A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF GARY MCGOWAN** Gary McGowan was a broadcaster, a promoter, and a part of Edmonton's musical spine. He helped put CJSR on the FM band, and he helped tons of bands make it to FM. He was also a nice man. Starlite Room, 8 pm, proceeds to charity.



kd lang, Jubilee Auditorium, June 8

Stage | June 10

“DOWN THE STREET, ONE LOVER UP AND DECIDES TO WASH THE DISHES—EVERY ONE.”

see magazine's two-week forecast of events in edmonton

listings: news pg 10 | city life pg 15 | music pg 30 | film caps pg 37 | arts pg 50

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—ROXANNE MARCEL, CHIEF OF THE MIKISEW CREE FIRST NATION

ALBERTA • ENVIRONMENT • BY ADRIAN MORROW | 783 words

Suncor Spills Oil In Northern River

**WATER FROM TAILINGS PONDS
SEEPING INTO ATHABASCA**

An oilsands operation has spilled 300 litres of oil and grease into the Athabasca River, and leaks five million litres of toxic wastewater into the ground every day, it was revealed this week.

Although such spills have been suspected for years, this is the first concrete proof a company has released contaminated water into the river, and area residents are upset that they didn't find out about it earlier.

"We're right down from the river and we consume that water," says Roxanne Marcel, chief of the Mikisew Cree First Nation, who live downstream from the oilsands. "We get angry at more spills happening."

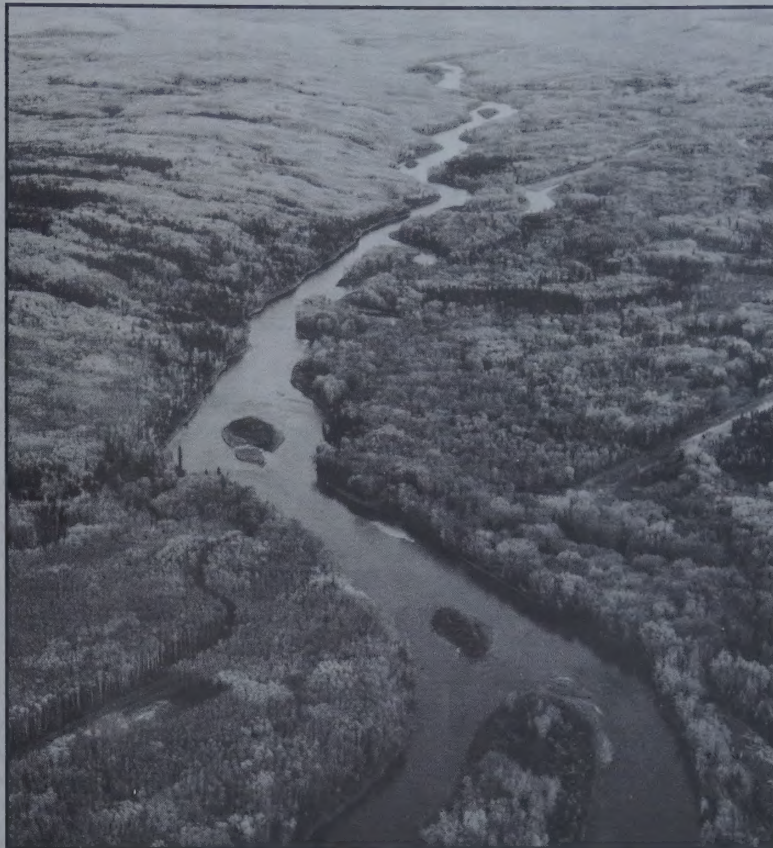
The spills first came to light in a May 6 PowerPoint presentation created by Suncor Energy, the second-largest company in the oilsands, for the town of Fort Chipewyan, a 1,200-strong community on the shores of Lake Athabasca, downstream from their operations. The presentation was made public this week.

According to the presentation, Suncor released dirty water into the Athabasca River on five occasions between June 2003 and April 2008. By far the largest spill happened on September 8 of last year and involved a pond of wastewater waiting to be treated and put back in the river. The pond had a pipe pulling water from the bottom. When the water level fell below the pipe, the system started sucking out the oil and grease floating on top of the pond and pumping it into the river.

A report by scientists at the University of Waterloo indicates that the Tar Island dyke, one of Suncor's tailings ponds, is also leaking five million litres of toxic water a day, some of which ends up the river. The report was prepared for the company and dated November 2007 but wasn't obtained by the media until this week.

Both reports indicate that the company tried to stop the leaks, and the dirty water didn't appear to have any adverse effect on the river. After the spill last September, Suncor informed the provincial government and some local residents, says company spokesperson Brad Bellows. Others didn't find out until this month.

"I don't think they went into the community and informed us," says Marcel. The provincial opposition is also pointing the finger at the gov-



Oil in The Athabasca Spills from tailings ponds have been suspected for years, but recently released Suncor documents are the first concrete proof.

ernment for not going public with the information about the spills or the leaking tailings pond.

"It raises the question of how much we can trust the government," says David Swann, a Calgary MLA and Liberal Party environment critic. "What else do they know that they're not telling the public?"

As recently as May 15, provincial Environment Minister Rob Renner said the oilsands didn't pose any threat to the water supply in the area. According to an official transcript of that afternoon's debate in the legislature, Swann asked Renner if he could guarantee there was no risk of oilsands operations leaching into the province's water.

"Yes," Renner replied. "That has been my consistent message and answer... I don't know why (Swann) keeps asking the same question. Does he expect a different answer?"

Although previous spills haven't been proven, communities downstream from the oilsands have long

been concerned that the industrial activity is hurting their water quality.

A peer-reviewed scientific study by ecologist Kevin Timoney, released last fall, found higher than average concentrations of more than 20 substances, including arsenic and mercury, in Lake Athabasca and the Athabasca Delta.

It also concluded that the poisons were entering the ecosystems and could threaten people who hunt and eat local wildlife.

Some area residents have complained of high rates of disease, including a rare bile-duct cancer, and residents want to know if the oilsands are causing it. "We just want answers," says George Poitras, a resident of Fort Chipewyan. "There have been very regular diagnoses of cancer in the community. We find that to be alarming."

Boiling Point, a study released last week by the Polaris Institute, an Ottawa-based advocacy group,

highlighted Fort Chipewyan as emblematic of the water problems faced by First Nations people across the country.

"What we need is a really thorough assessment," says Andrea Harden, one of the study's authors. "In a way, the government of Alberta and these (oilsands) companies have been complicit in not giving more information."

The Alberta Cancer Board is leading a study to determine if the claims are true and if the oilsands are causing higher rates of disease, and hopes to have results by fall, says board spokesperson Lee Elliott.

The government is also launching a full environmental study to measure the level of toxins in the water and the ground around the oilsands. The revelations come just weeks after the province busted out a \$25-million advertising campaign to promote the oilsands as environmentally friendly.

NEWS BRIEF BY ADRIAN MORROW

ALBERTA • TREATY RIGHTS
ABORIGINAL GROUPS FIGHT WATER
MARKET IN COURT

Alberta's water market is environmentally unsound and violates the treaty rights of First Nations, according to two aboriginal groups who have taken the provincial government to court. They say the government didn't consult them before bringing in the market system.

In an effort to conserve Alberta's dwindling water supply, the province stopped issuing new licences for water withdrawals on all rivers in the south of the province two years ago. Current licence-holders with extra water can sell it off at any price to those who need more.

The Tsuu T'ina and the Samson Cree, two southern Alberta First Nations, say the government never consulted them before bringing the system in and they will be forced to give up their right to take water where they want.

"It limits water access and would require the Nation to go through one of the access points instead of having open access as under the treaty," says Morton Paulson, a spokesperson for the Tsuu T'ina.

The two groups argue that the system, which encourages higher water withdrawals, also doesn't protect the environment and also infringes on First Nations hunting and fishing.

Their primary legal argument is that the government has to consult them before making any decisions that concern their treaty rights. If they can prove that, the court could decide to strike down the government plan that created the water market and force the province to find a new way of managing Alberta's water.

"(The case) has the potential to make important law on an important issue," says Brian Barrington-Foot, a Regina lawyer representing the First Nations, noting that the case is the first of its kind in Canada.

The Tsuu T'ina have a population of roughly 2,000 on a reserve southwest of Calgary in the Bow River basin. The Samson Cree have a reserve near Hobbema, south of Wetaskiwin. The legal challenges were launched last year. The action went before the court last month, but a decision won't be released for several weeks.

The Tsuu T'ina previously opposed the government's water transfer system when the Crossiron Mills mega-mall north of Calgary cut a deal to buy 2.2 million cubic metres of water from the Western Irrigation District. The development was ultimately allowed to proceed, marking the largest water sale so far in the province's history.

Alberta Environment declined to comment on the First Nations legal challenge until the judge makes a decision. "There isn't a lot we can say since the matter is before the courts," says spokesperson Kim Capstick.

ALBERTA • FIRST NATIONS • BY ANGELA BRUNSCHOT (1,048 words)

This Land Is Our Land

THE NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION PROMISES TO BE QUIET HERE IN ALBERTA, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THERE ISN'T A LOT OF UNRESOLVED FIRST NATIONS ISSUES.

Rosie Lameman, Chief of the Papaschase First Nations band, has been so busy dealing with a recent Supreme Court ruling on her band's land claim in southeast Edmonton that she hasn't planned a protest for the National Day of Action on May 29. But that doesn't mean that, across the province of Alberta, all is hunky dory for the province's aboriginal bands.

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) organizes the annual event at the national level to raise the awareness of non-native Canadians about the poor living conditions and legal limbo endured by native groups across the country. This year's Day of Action focuses on children's education.

And there are some big public gestures planned. Stephen Harper will apologize on June 11 for the joint government-church residential school system, which took children from their families and placed them in Christian schools. Many were abused.

Premier Ed Stelmach has also agreed to meet with the chiefs of the Alberta's three treaty groups once a year to discuss First Nations issues.

These public gestures and the absence of vocal protests this year don't mean that the Papaschase band or other groups in Alberta are content.

"Things are getting hot in Indian country," says Lameman. "We've just had enough. Everybody has had enough."

In Alberta, 33 land claims are under review, 13 in active negotiations, not including lawsuits resulting from settled claims that individual bands argue are not respected.

Here is a small selection of the social and legal issues simmering around the province.

**TREATY CLAIMS INFORMATION WAS TAKEN FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S SPECIFIC CLAIMS BRANCH REPORT.*

Lubicon Cree

The Lubicon Cree are a tiny nation of about 500 people. They say they have never ceded their 10,000 square kilometer tract of land to the Canadian government.

In 1899, the federal government assumed other Cree native people who did sign Treaty 8 were connected to the Lubicon nation and could therefore legally turn over their land. Their land claim does not appear on federal lists.

The Friends of the Lubicon, an advocacy group, argues that the federal government cannot accept the Lubicon position because it would set a dangerous legal precedent, opening up other areas of Canada to land claims.

The legal limbo has resulted in a lack of basic amenities for the band, says the group. They do not have drinkable water or paved roads in their settlement. It also excludes them from development negotiations; most recently including the planned TransCanada pipeline through their lands.

Both Amnesty International and the United Nations have called on the Canadian government to settle the claim.

The Friends of the Lubicon are planning a demonstration at the Alberta legislature on May 29.

Whitefish Lake Cree

All bands that signed onto Treaty 8 in 1899 were entitled to agricultural equipment and cattle to help them make the adjustment to settled life, but the Whitefish Lake band claims they didn't receive this payment. The claim has been in the federal system since 1994.

Urban Aboriginals and Métis

Edmonton has the second largest urban aboriginal population in Canada, with 40,930 First Nations people living in the city, according to Statistics Canada.

Health services and other supports for First Nations recovering from residential school experiences are stretched to the limit, says Terry Lusty, founder of the Residential School Survivors Society of Alberta and a Native Friendship Centre board member.

Sweeping public gestures like Harper's apology or the planned residential school commemoration ceremonies don't negate the need for psychology healing within the community, Lusty says. He warns that the upcoming Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings, public hearings designed to both investigate government wrongdoing and provide a way for victims to heal, will bring up a lot of buried memories for First Nations and Métis people that support groups are ill-equipped to deal with. For example, his survivors' group currently runs without funding, despite the urgent need for trained counsellors.

"This is going to be a real trying time," he says. "These are going to open up whole new banks of memories for a lot of people. We have to have something in place for them."

Papaschase Cree

Rosie Lameman, Chief of the Papaschase band, has spent eight years developing her band's land claim in southeast Edmonton, but the federal government doesn't list the Papaschase in their records of land claims. The government does not recognize the group as a band.

In April, the band lost a Supreme Court hearing on the land claim and, unless the ruling is reversed under the band's recent challenge, the claim will not go to trial.

If the ruling is not overturned, Lameman will take her band's case to the international community. She has already been contacted by the United Nations.

Fort Chipewyan

Mikisew Cree

Downstream from the oilsands, the Mikisew Cree of Fort Chipewyan are facing a myriad of environmental problems and related health concerns.

Dr. John O'Connor, a Fort Chipewyan family doctor, has raised the alarm about an increase in lupus, lymphomas, colon cancers, thyroid cancers, leukemia, and bile duct cancers in the area, but the band has struggled to get the provincial government to address their concerns.

Recently, Suncor admitted that an industrial wastewater leak into the Athabasca occurred in September.

The band has also gone all the way to the Supreme Court to protect their right to be consulted on development in the area. They are currently suing the B.C. government over flooding caused by the Bennett Dam on the Peace River, which killed wildlife needed for food and trapping income.

Lubicon Lake

Atikameg

Lac La Biche

Beaver Lake Cree

The Beaver Lake Cree are suing the provincial and federal government over oil and gas developments in northeastern Alberta.

Under Treaty 6, the band was promised hunting and trapping rights, but the band says development has irreparably damaged the area and wildlife, rendering their rights null.

Hobbema

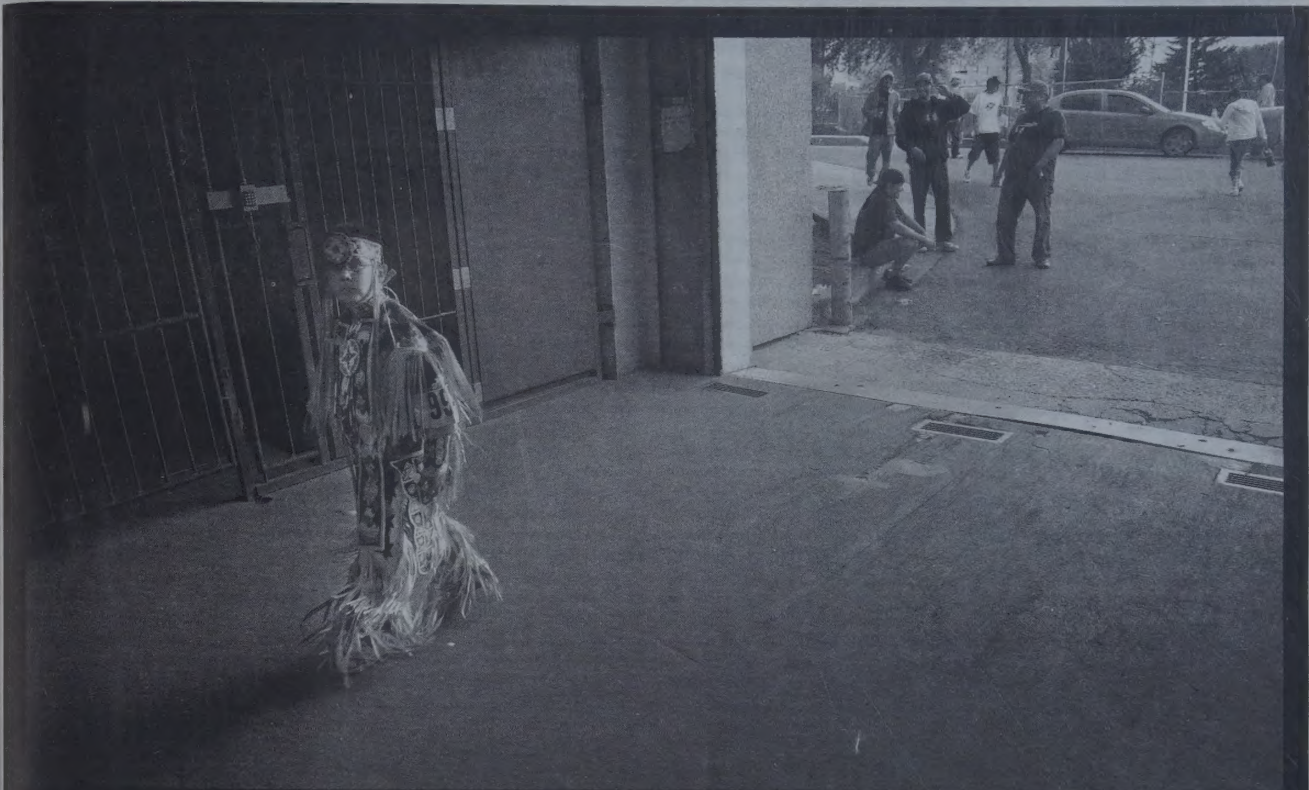
Louis Bull Cree

Since 1987 the Louis Bull band has claimed that their 1909 surrender was illegal. Their case is currently in the courts.

Calgary

“WE ALWAYS VOICED OUR CONCERNS ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT... BUT IT SEEMED LIKE **NOBODY IS AT THE TABLE** TO ADDRESS THESE. HOPEFULLY A PROTOCOL AGREEMENT WILL GET US TO THE TABLE.

-Grand Chief Arthur Noskey of Treaty 8 Edmonton Journal



WITNESS

MAY 24, 2008 | 6:47:42 PM | UofA BUTTERDOME | PHOTO BY IAN JACKSON
Dancers and supporters take a break at the Ben Calf Robe Society's 27th Annual Pow Wow.

OUR COMMENT ON THIS WEEK'S NEWS

EDMONTON • POLICE PLEASE, NO MORE TASERING VIDEOS

In the wake of Robert Dziekanski's Vancouver airport Taser death last October, there has been a rush to study and rethink these controversial weapons.

After Dziekanski's death, Newfoundland froze their program. In recent months experts come forward saying that Tasers have not been properly tested and may be more dangerous for people with a heart condition. Edmonton has taken a bit of a different turn though.

In an effort aimed at making their officers more accountable, the Edmonton Police Service is installing video cameras on the weapons.

Canadians don't need another video capturing the dying screams of a human being after they have been Tasered.

Clearly, the weapons are not safe and are not being used properly and should be discarded.

ALBERTA • FIRST NATIONS SMILE AND NOD GOVERNMENT

Ed Stelmach's recent announcement that he will meet once a year with the Chiefs of Alberta's three treaty groups may honestly be a sign of respect, but let's wait and see if anything comes of the talks before praising the move.

After all, Stelmach and his team routinely meet with and receive reports from experts in all kinds of fields, and their advice is routinely ignored. The Royalty Report and the Housing Taskforce are just two big examples of how the Tories don't listen.

Indeed, consultation can often be a way of legitimizing government decisions that go completely against the public interest. It's a lesson that water advocates had to learn by going through the largely ineffective Cumulative Effects Management process.

Let's hope the new arrangement bears fruit. But if not, the Chiefs shouldn't lend the government any unearned legitimacy.

CANADA • ENVIRONMENT CARBON TAX-FUELED REVIVAL

It's been a good week for Liberal leader Stephan Dion and his carbon tax.

Maybe former foreign minister Maxime Bernier's recent fumbblings has something to do with the new shine on the federal Liberals, but we like to think that sensible thinking and environmental concerns are what's adding luster to the Grits these days.

It wasn't that long ago that CTV's Lloyd Robinson asked how Dion could possibly suggest a new tax with in what could be an election year, phrasing it as if the Prime Ministerial hopeful just proposed making rhythmic gymnastics the national sport.

Pundits denounced the tax as too complicated for the average Joe to understand.

No one wants to part with his or her hard-earned dollars for nothing, but Canadians are willing to pay for things they value and, as polls have shown, Canadians value the environment.

BY THE NUMBERS

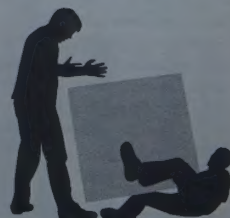
WORK FOR WORK'S SAKE LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY IN CANADA, 2007.

*SOURCE: STATS CANADA



NEWFOUNDLAND:

+9.2%



ALBERTA: -1.9%

Tax Whiners And Renters, Unite!

OPINION EXILE

IF RENT INCREASES WERE TIED TO TAX INCREASES AND BEDROOM COMMUNITIES HAD TO CHIP IN FOR THE SERVICES THEY USE, TAX FIGHTERS WOULD BE SINGING A DIFFERENT TUNE

Edmonton property taxes are going up, causing much hand-wringing by property owners and conservative columnists.

How dare Edmonton city council piss away the hard-earned money of Edmonton homeowners? What do they need the money for? The Stelmach government is spending record amounts on Edmonton infrastructure and anyway we're not being shortchanged as badly as Calgary, so we should be grateful to have a premier who favours us above our spoiled siblings to the south.

Edmonton mayor Stephen Mandel can blame himself for the currency of this narrative, even if he has been playing nice with the premier in recent months. Mandel's strategy makes sense, in a way. Edmonton led the province in giving the Tories a bigger mandate last March, and Stelmach doesn't face another provincial election until 2012. Edmonton city council, on the other hand, is up for grabs two years before that. What

does Calgary Mayor Dave Bronckner have to show for his animosity towards the province?

And there's lots of money to be had. The province continues to low-ball oil prices ridiculously, projecting an average price of \$78 per barrel this fiscal year. With oil currently above \$130/barrel, the province will collect at least another \$7 billion in oil revenues on top of the budget's forecasted surplus. For every dollar oil rises, Alberta's government collects another \$130 million, with two-thirds of the extra income earmarked for additional capital spending.

Edmonton wants a good chunk of that money, and Mandel appears to believe the best way to get it is to play nice. We'll see if he's right. Edmonton will get \$2.1 billion over the next 10 years from the Municipal Sustainability Initiative, but everyone knows we are playing catch-up after having been starved for capital project investment since at least the beginning of the Klein era in 1993. In the meantime, he's become the scapegoat for an average property tax increase of 7.5% forecast in the city's 2008 budget.

Of course, 'average' hides a lot of disparities, with several lower income neighbourhoods, like Rossdale and Highlands, taking a hit of more than 20%.

On the face of the situation, it looks like City Hall is targeting the poor and spending irresponsibly. After all, if the feds and the province can manage a surplus, why not the city?

The difference lies in how the municipal government gets its revenue. Half comes from property and business taxes, with the rest coming from investments, franchise fees, EPCOR and other sources that haven't kept pace with Edmonton's spending needs. And when it comes to taxes, of every dollar you and I pay to government, the city only gets 5%.

The province still hasn't addressed the fact that Edmonton taxpayers finance a lot of services and structures that are used—but not paid for—by people throughout the capital region, living in leech municipalities like St. Albert and Sherwood Park. And the city is compelled to spend on an ever-growing range of services offloaded by the province. Municipal money is going to health and social services, such as social housing and frontline mental health services for the homeless, which are clearly provincial responsibilities, while the provincial finance ministry records yet another ballooning surplus. And the city gets not a dime of oil windfall revenues for operating expenses—like more frequent and thorough snow removal, which has been loudly demanded

by primarily suburban homeowners who are also among the most prominent property tax whiners.

As for the tax increases themselves, who pays for them? Tax-fighter types say that the Left should be up in arms over this new burden that property owners will have no choice but to pass on to renters. This is complete bullshit, of course. Rent increases have almost nothing to do with property tax. The property tax bill in 2008 for someone owning a \$350,000 house (very average these days) will be around \$1,377 per year. This is the total bill, not the amount of the increase. (And homeowners also benefit from rising equity, which does matter, though there are those who pretend it doesn't.)

At the same time, even real estate publications are pegging the average monthly rent increase over the last two years in Edmonton for a two-bedroom residence at \$150. That's an average of \$1,800 in extra rent each year, or \$3,600 over two years. At about \$1150 per month for a two-bedroom unit this year (\$650 in 2006), that's an increase of over 75% in 24 months.

The amount of additional property tax the average homeowner will pay over the course of an entire year in 2008 is less than the average amount a renter will pay towards yet another

hike in skyrocketing rents in just one month.

But perhaps the tax protesters are on to something. How about we tie rent hikes to property tax increases? This would give us all an incentive to take a closer look at how the city finances its services, with a better sense of who benefits and who, when one looks at the real bottom line, is actually getting gouged in Edmonton.

inexileeverywhere@gmail.com

CORRECTION

In last week's Exile column, there was a line that read: "CPT and organizations like it act against Western governments and militaries, which undermines their legitimacy."

It should have read: "It is not as though there is a lack of violence to oppose in those places, but what IS absent is critical to understanding the CPT and organizations like it—western soldiers. By acting solely against western governments and militaries, these 'peace activists' undermine their legitimacy. Ironically, they also implicitly and unintentionally confer a moral advantage on western military establishments by visibly relying on their good will and protection."

No More Nukes!

**GUEST PETER JOHNSTON
NUCLEAR ENERGY WILL
PEAK IN 30 YEARS, SO WHY
IS ALBERTA EVEN TALKING
ABOUT THIS DANGEROUS
ENERGY SOURCE?**

Editor's Note: Peter Johnston is the deputy leader of the Alberta Green Party and ran in the recent provincial election in Edmonton-Glenora. This is his third column in a five week series on energy in Alberta.

A nuclear energy proposal in Alberta was bound to come up. We are the energy experts after all.

Newly minted Alberta Energy company was created with the express purpose of building Alberta's first nuclear power generating plant. Alberta Energy partnered with the crown corporation, Atomic Energy Canada Limited (AECL), and sometime in 2008 the partnership will apply for a permit to construct a 750 megawatt nuclear plant in northern Alberta with the Alberta Utilities Commission.

Supporters of nuclear energy claim it is the greenest of all centralized power generation technologies avail-

able, emitting no green house gases (GHG) or pollution. They further claim that going nuclear is the only way to provide enough power for the scheduled expansion of the oilsands development.

Nuclear industry supporters hope nuclear power will become a major player in the future, as governments try to reduce the amount of GHGs emitted by the energy industry.

But even if we disregard major problems like nuclear waste and potential meltdowns, nuclear power isn't even a long-term solution for our energy needs. Just as the production of oil will peak soon (some say it has already), uranium will also peak. No one can say when, there is always the possibility that major sources will be discovered in the future, but most scientific reviews done by non-industry sources, like Energy Watch, say peak uranium will occur in about 30 years.

And let's consider the potential environmental consequences of the Three Mile Island and Chernobyl incidents. The former was a narrowly averted meltdown with a relatively small radiation leak, while the latter was a reactor explosion that released

an enormous amount of radiation across Europe. Chernobyl effected the health of at least 250,000 people and rendered the area around the site uninhabitable for hundreds of years.

Granted, the reactor being planned for Northern Alberta has additional safety considerations. All reactors built in the west have to be fully enclosed in a massive containment building that makes the kind of radiation release seen at Chernobyl extremely unlikely. However, all nuclear plant do release some level of radiation during the course of normal operation. The one proposed for Northern Alberta will be no exception. CANDU reactors are known for releasing radioactive tritium. Significantly, when testing for radioactive contamination around reactors in Canada AECL does not test for tritium. Also, the safe limit for tritium in drinking water is set at a level 10 times higher than in the USA and 70 times higher than in Europe.

Even economically, nuclear power is volatile. Reactors are very expensive to build and almost always come in over budget and behind schedule. AECL has absorbed over \$17 billion of taxpayers money since its incep-

tion and currently gets more than \$200 million per year.

Insurance companies refuse to insure nuclear reactors and so the government (as in you and me) is stuck with the bill.

Over and above these problems is the issue of radioactive waste disposal. So far no one has come up with an absolutely foolproof way to store the highly radioactive waste.

The U.S. government is trying to complete an enormously expensive storage site deep under a mountain in Nevada. However, that site is facing protracted legal problems and may never be used. Nuclear supporters say that the solution for permanent storage of this highly dangerous waste will be found in due course. In the meantime the amount of waste keeps on growing. To shrug our collective shoulders and leave this for future generations to solve, if they can, is totally irresponsible.

Besides, Alberta is very fortunate to have a viable alternative that burns no fuel, either fossil or renewable. Deep well geothermal is the way to go. Alberta does not need nuclear energy.

ACTIVISM

ACTIVIST AGENDA An online newsletter resource for activism related events in Edmonton, with up-to-date information on sustainable practices, networking, and active organizations in the city. Supplied and maintained by Earth's General Store (10832-82 Ave. upstairs, 439-8725). Go to www.egs.ca. Info also available in-store.

BIKE WORKS Fix your own bike. Edmonton Bicycle Commuters' BikeWorks is entirely run by volunteers. Hours vary by season, call ahead: 433-2453. Info: www.edmontonbikes.ca.

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COUNCIL OF CANADIANS 3RD WED EVERY MONTH Independent public interest organization promoting economic justice, democracy, and asserting Canadian sovereignty. Info: 429-4500.

EDMONTON 9/11 TRUTH An organization for Canadian citizens questioning the events of 9/11. For news, links, and local events go to www.edmonton-911truth.com.

GREENPEACE ALBERTA Working and recruiting active people to help put an end to one of the world's most destructive projects: the Alberta Tar Sands. Info: mhuedema@greenpeace.org.

INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD 2ND THU EVERY MONTH 7 PM RM 2-42, HUMANITIES BUILDING, U OF A CAMPUS. Meetings open to the public. Info: edmonton.iww.ca.

MADELINE SANAM FOUNDATION 3RD & 4TH SAT EVERY MONTH 9 AM-5 PM FACULTE SAINT-JEAN, 8406-91 ST., RM 3-18 Organization for the emancipation and autonomy of African women, providing programs on economy, community health, training in HIV-AIDS prevention, treatment, and harm reduction. Instruction in French, English, and African languages. Admission free for members, membership \$10. Info: 490-7332.

PEACE AMBASSADORS INITIATIVE MON 5-7 PM EDUCATION NORTH 4-10A, U OF A CAMPUS youth group promoting anti-racist and diversity workshops. Info: 425-4644 or www.naarp.org.

SIERRA CLUB OF CANADA Prairie Chapter works with ecologically and socially conscious individuals to build strong grassroots movement in the Prairies. Info: www.sierraclub.ca/prairie.

“ONE OF MY CONCERNS IS THAT WE’LL ONLY EVER BE CONSIDERED ‘CUTE’, AND NOT RELEVANT ON A LARGER SCALE. BUT THE INTENTION BEHIND THE CABINET GALLERY AND INSTITUTE PARACHUTE IS VALID.”
—INSTITUTE PARACHUTE CO-FOUNDER JOSEE OUELLETTE

PROFILES • COLLECTIVE WHIMSY • BY ASHLEY ANDEL (184 words)

Unseriously Institutionalized



One Institute, Under Chute | Art Collective Institute Parachute sprinkles their work around the city and Spreepark. PHOTO BY ASHLEY ANDEL

INSTITUTE PARACHUTE CAN'T DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO TAKE THEMSELVES SERIOUSLY, BUT THEY DON'T SEEM TOO WORRIED ABOUT IT

It's hard to be whimsical and taken seriously. Alternatively, perhaps it's easier to be serious and taken whimsically.

At least that's what the people at Institute Parachute would have you believe. The collective is group of nine artists, headed by Adam Waldron-Blain and Josee Ouellette, with a rather difficult objective; to justify the mean between the weighty and the flighty, the humble and the commercial.

When you look at artists like Bjork or designers like Betsey Johnson, there's a delicate balance of humour, composure, and commodity. They come off as fun and Dionysian with critical acclaim firmly intact. There are scads of local creative types who adore both, yet tend toward the notion that in order to be successful you have to constantly appear grown-up and respectable. Whether or not this is a regional thing is moot, the real question is how can anyone expect to be taken totally seriously?

Waldron-Blain and Ouellette started their collective around a select group of friends as a sort of larfish effort to keep productive, but soon found the whim extending to enterprise. At first organizing things as modest as a portable arts festival in the Alberta Legislature grounds, the Parachute soon opened up to Raymond Biesinger's Royal Bison Craft Fair last year where they premiered the Cabinet Gallery.

This old cabinet, found in a garage and transformed into a small yet inviting display space, is now situated in the Nokomis boutique on Whyte Avenue, where it provides not only

Blain's paintings of local party people provide a beautiful record of an Edmonton fête, and Travis McEwan's drippy androgynous faces are both striking and jarring. A quick scan of instituteparachute.ca yields scant insight though, and I'm left wondering if this troupe wants to be known at all.

I arrange a photo shoot with Ouellette and Waldron-Blain outside the TransAlta Arts Barns, and just for fun I bring a colourful parachute. I arrive to find not only the pair, but Travis McEwan and Jessica Joan Delorme also in tow. We snack on Fig Newtons before I'm given a tour of the developing set for *Willkommen In Spreepark*, the multimedia musical show Institute Parachute has designed and constructed sets for. I see a ripple-stitched creek and a plushy typewriter in a few short paces. Amidst the sticky sound of paint rollers, I present them with the parachute and we leave to toss it about on a little patch of grass outside the theatre doors.

They come off as uncomfortable and shy about having a basic group photo taken, opting to turn away from the lens or hiding themselves completely in the folds of the tarp. I get a little frustrated, so I take pictures of the group covered up like a garish Christo ghost.

The wind is heavy and fresh with incoming rain, and it's irresistible to toss the 'chute up in the air. We jump underneath as my camera plays Big

Brother to the playground.

Delorme persistently uses her Elvis Presley locket as a pair of opera glasses, and McEwan hides away his mouth and chin with his hand. Waldron-Blain is always staring off into the distance, and Ouellette is the only one who ever seems upfront and centre, though she's careful not to show too much of her curious red pair of shorts. The photographs document the uneasiness these artists have with being awkward, in be-

tween the playful and the poised, and the supposed validation that seriousness and anonymity make a good work of art.

Getting back to their work on *Spreepark*, I ask them to give me some insight of their involvement. The response I get is somewhere in between button-lipped and indifferent.

"I'm just trying to get some experience for my curriculum vitae", somebody drops.

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George Slomp | Mathematician Straw Bale House Builder
 PHOTO BY CHRIS LEWIS
Q&As WITH EDMONTONIANS BY CHRIS LEWIS

Why did you decide to build a straw-bale house?

There are a lot of reasons. I guess one would be the R-value [the insulation value of the

bale] is phenomenal. The bale itself is about R-50, and when the wall is all set and done and if you count the windows, the minor air leaks and that sort of thing, the grand total

is around R-40 and R-45. That's about three to four times as much as a regular wall, and for a cost which is comparable to a regular 6" wall. Another reason, environmentally

speaking, is that straw is a crop that can be replaced in one year, it takes one year to grow straw, whereas a tree can take upwards of forty years to be useful as a piece of lum-

ber in construction. So in terms of land area that's required and the mark of time required to grow the building materials, straw has a much smaller footprint than lumber.

Is it expensive?

Well if you make the bales yourself, the cost of making a bale—taking into account the cost of diesel fuel—is about 70 cents. And in a house that's say 1200 square feet you need about 400 bales. That's \$280. For \$280 you cannot even buy the wood and insulation required for one wall of a [conventional] 1200 square foot house.

Isn't there a fear of it igniting?

Putting the straw into a bale removes a lot of the air from the environment, so even though there is air in the bale it isn't enough to sustain open combustion. With a straw bale house you improve upon that by applying stucco—both inside and out. In fact, the Smokey Lake Fire Department did a combustion test on a straw-bale wall in which they held a direct flame on one side of the wall and measured the temperature on the other. After eighteen hours they gave up, because on the other side of the wall there was no significant increase in temperature, smoldering, charring, or ignition.

What about rotting?

A straw-bale house is like any other house in that it requires two essentials: a good foundation and a good roof. If you've got a good roof with large over-hangs keeping the water off of the walls and you've got a good foundation that keeps the walls elevated off the ground then you should never have a problem, and the same holds true of any house



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Prize: A double-guest pass to see *Son of Rambo* at the Garneau Theatre.

Skill-testing Question: Who is the actor that played the leader of the Brethren in "Son of Rambo" and where is his hometown?

Prize: A double-guest pass to see *The Stone Angel* at the Princess Theatre.

Skill-testing Question: *The Stone Angel* is based on a "best-selling" novel by which author?



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IMBIBING • SAUV BLANC • BY MELISSA PRIESTLEY | 704 words

Cat Pee On A Gooseberry Bush

OUR "BETTER KNOW A VARIETAL" SERIES BEGINS BY CELEBRATING THE URINE-LIKE TASTE OF SAUVIGNON BLANC

Varietals—wines identified by the type of grape used to make them—have revolutionized the way many people understand wine. For novice oenophiles especially, the process of learning about wine often focuses on differentiating between the qualities of various grapes. Over the coming weeks, I'll introduce the world's main grapes: where they're grown, their characteristic aromas and flavours, what food pairs up well with them... and whatever fun or pertinent information happens to occur to me.

First up: Sauvignon Blanc, a great summer wine with acidity to refresh and alcohol to relax.

As the name suggests, Sauvignon Blanc hails from France—specifically the cool Loire Valley. The most famous appellations within the Loire are Sancerre and Pouilly-Fumé, but you can find good examples scat-



Does It Really Taste Like Pee? | Well, we don't think so, but maybe we should ask Felix here. Photo by Melissa Priestley

tered throughout the region, as well as a few other areas in France—notably Bordeaux, where the majority

of grapes used in white Bordeaux are grown (with Semillon making up the balance).

The other Sauvignon standard-bearer is New Zealand, especially the Marlborough region. Not surprisingly, Sauvignon Blanc from the other side of the equator is quite different from its French counterpart. Because of its pronounced fruitiness, many novice wine drinkers (or those who just like fruit) prefer New Zealand Sauvignon because it's easy to quaff on their own. Though French Sauvignon (like most French wine) can be equally as refreshing, these taste better paired with food.

Chile is another good Sauvignon-producing region, especially the Casablanca Valley, which produces fruity wines similar to the kiwi style. South Africa also produces some great examples, usually holding the middle ground between the French and New Zealand styles.

California also grows a fair amount of Sauvignon Blanc, where it is often called Fumé Blanc (a name coined by

wine guru Robert Mondavi). However, California's warmth and sunshine often rob the wines of their most appealing feature: that refreshing, mouth-puckering acidity that leaves you ready to drink another bottle.

Many people are familiar with the classic Sauvignon Blanc flavours, due in large part to an enterprising New Zealand wine named Cat's Pee on a Gooseberry Bush. As apt as this descriptor may be (though I personally have yet to detect the pee flavour in it), you may want to refrain from smacking your lips in anticipation as you announce to your date that you smell animal urine.

As with all grape varieties, the place where Sauvignon Blanc is grown determines its flavours and aromas. Traditional French Sauvignon has something very green about it, often with aromas and flavours reminiscent of freshly cut grass, herbs, gooseberries, wet garden, and weeds, as well as flinty, mineral-like quality (supposedly reminiscent of gunsmoke, though it's been years since I fired my revolver, so I'll have to get back to you on that one).

New Zealand Sauvignon Blancs have extremely concentrated, fruity aromas of peaches, nectarines, grapefruit, and tropical fruits like

pineapple and melon. The acidity can be a little less prominent under all this fruit, though there are plenty of New Zealand Sauvignons that pack an acidic wallop.

Californian Fumé Blancs grown in hot regions often lack all of the usual Sauvignon signatures; these wines tend to be heavy, oily, alcoholic, and lacking in acidity—more like Chardonnay than Sauvignon. However, some very good Sauvignon Blanc comes from the cooler areas of California, like Monterey, the Santa Ynez Valley, and the Russian River Valley.

Summery Sauvignon Blanc is an excellent patio wine: you won't notice that you finished off the bottle until you wake up with an interesting facial sunburn from lying sprawled against the lawnchair. French Sauvignon goes wonderfully with salads tossed in citrus or vinegar dressing, delicate fish in lemon and dill, grilled vegetables, and shellfish. The fruity New Zealand Sauvignons are a good match with light chicken dishes in fruit sauce and subtly spiced Asian dishes, though they also work well with salads and seafood. A heavier Fumé Blanc can partner up with more robust dishes—try lobster in garlic butter or chicken in cream sauce.

50 BUCK • BY SAM POWER | 601 words

Viva La House Of Revolution

THIS WEEK'S SOBUCKER TAKES HER ACTIVIST COHORT ON THE TOWN WITH SHARPIES IN TOW

Live with a group of political activists, and the draw to change the world is almost ■ physical pull—the weekends become a perfect opportunity for us in the House of Revolution to catch up on our activism: Saturday and Sunday are prime days to either recharge the batteries or burn the last few inches of solar energy left in our political hearts until a new week begins.

\$7: A rubber duckie and Sharpies

With spring comes the requisite sitting of the Legislature and a new session of Parliament, so there is plenty for Albertans to change. This weekend it's ducks. After 500 ducks were killed in the burbling monster pit of tar sands excrement, environmentalists and animal rights activists descended on the Legislature to rally for the government to create and enforce environmental regulations on Syncrude and Suncor. I had to invest in a new big black marker to write "Best Premier Oil Money Can Buy" across my re-used cardboard sign.

The permanent ink of a black marker is a solid investment for any grassroots activist, as you never know when you'll stumble upon a sign or advertisement that needs a

little "correcting" of gender, sexual orientation, or power structure stereotypes. You simply can't miss an opportunity to spread a little anti-capitalist dissent or leave a comforting message all across the city. But remember to use your Sharpie responsibly.

\$18: Fair trade coffee and beans

As self-proclaimed anarchists, we know buying local is a key component of bringing an end to the exorbitant costs and high carbon output of food transportation. Plus there's a greater sense of community when you buy your coffee from someone you know. We stop in at the new Organic Roots location to pick up supplies for our vegan brunch held at the House of Revolution every Sunday. I make sure to snag some fair trade coffee, as the revolution must be caffeinated, but not at the exploitation of others.

\$20: Vegan Brunch

Growing up, Sunday was the traditional day to gather family and regroup our thoughts and actions. It's no different around the House of Revolution. Potluck brunch at our place has become a gathering space for political activists across the community to talk about upcoming events and the need for mobilization

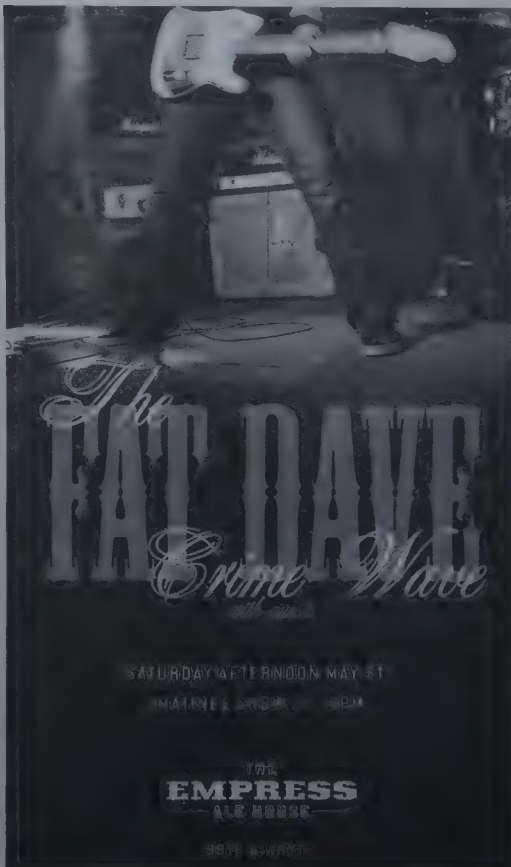
around local political issues—from gender dynamics in the activist community to the need for a diversity of tactics to create political change. Of course being friends of the earth (as we all should be) it's a vegan-friendly brunch. Cream and cheese

might seem integral parts of an ordinary Sunday brunch, but once you've tried tofu scramble with the right combination of honey, curry powder, turmeric, and several cloves of garlic, eggs and bacon will seem like a distant memory.

\$4: Sunday papers and stamps

I finish off the fair trade java while catching up on the news of the week in local papers and weeklies. Newspapers will often print letters to the editor days after the original article appears, especially if you know how to write one. The issue for me this week is the extension of the LRT operating times to 24 hours. It seems comical that in a city wanting to be world renowned you can't catch a bus after 1 A.M. An extra bit of wit tossed in to the letter will guarantee publication. While I'm at I copy and paste a letter to my local city councillor. Walking in the Sunday sun to drop off my letters it doesn't feel like the revolution is any closer, but every weekend helps push it a little further along.

Wanna try it? Send your idea for 50Buck to stories@see.greatwest.ca.



In Scott We Trust

OUR RESTAURANT REVIEWER GIVES HIS VERSION OF THE "BEST OF" EDMONTON'S EATERIES—HEAVY ON THE WELL-PRICED ASIAN FOODS

As you no doubt know from the document you hold in your hands, the people have spoken again, sending their suggestions for the best this or that in Edmonton. Being a Professional Reviewer, as well as a Motiveless Man About Town, I've stuck my nose into a fair few of this city's eateries. Therefore, I feel it incumbent on me to offer up a few subjective observations about some of Edmonton's Best things to eat in a scattering of categories of my own devising, revealing in particular a profound Asian bias. Sample at will.

Best new: MOR Mediterranean Turkish Cuisine (15620-95 Ave.)

After suffering a little Greek taverna burnout—not least because of the pounding bellydancing music one is often forced to withstand at such venues—I was relieved to find an unpretentiously attractive dining spot with a distinctive spin on the art of Mediterranean grilled meats, mezze, and homemade flatbread. They also have a unique wine list, with vintages from Israel and Lebanon. Having given there once, this one is high on my "Go Back Soon" list.

Best new (Asian): Viphalay (10724-95 St.)

With the vast preponderance of new Asian restaurants opening their doors, they need of need their own category. I haven't been to every new Thai place that's opened in the last year, but I've tried enough to know that Viphalay puts up an extensive menu with some of the best Thai and Lao cuisine I've tried recently, at very reasonable prices. Plus it's really nice inside (despite the drab strip-mall setting) and the Singha is served with mugs straight from the freezer to slake the spicy burn of their green papaya salad, tom yum, and delicious, coconutty curries.

Best pho: Tau Bay Restaurant (10660-98 St.)

Pho is Vietnamese rice noodle soup, usually made with seasoned



Off The Beaten Path | There are a lot of great places, like Viphalay, that get overlooked when it comes to Best Of time.

beef stock and thin slices of beef that are cooked by dropping them into the steaming broth, and served with fried shallots, sprigs of basil, lime wedges, chili peppers, and hoisin sauce. Tau Bay's greatness is predicated on the fact that they serve nothing but authentic pho (vegetarians stay home)—lots of it, with all fixin's—at around \$6 for a huge portion. Cash only.

Best cheap lunch: Commodore Restaurant (10712 Jasper Ave.)

Come on, people—where else can you get a clubhouse sandwich (made with real roasted chicken) and fries for under \$6? Only at the Commodore, that's where. Straight-ahead breakfasts, Chinese food, cheeseburgers like grandma made—you can get 'em all at low, low prices, served by genuinely friendly people who have every right to call you "dear."

Best fake meat dish: Oriental Veggie House's mock lamb curry hotpot (10586-100 St.)

The point of fake meat is not to provide a convincing flesh facsimile, but to insert a toothsome substitute to carry the flavours of the dish and add something more substantial to all those veggies. The Oriental Veggie House's lamb curry hotpot is impressive not because they've done a good job of replicating lamb out of mushroom protein or textured gluten or whatever it is, but how deliciously those chunks of non-flesh work with the creamy curry sauce, chunks of carrot and potato and tender-crisp stalks of broccoli.

Best sashimi: Wasabi (5715-111 St.)

For succulent slabs of raw fish—es-

pecially those perennial faves tuna belly and salmon—this little Japanese restaurant (which started its life as a food kiosk in the now defunct Strathcona Chinatown Mall) has never failed to deliver fresh, two-bite portions with just the right touch of the eponymous green stuff to set your nose a-tinkling.

Best spicy pleasure: Lee House's gam poong gi (7904-104 St.)

There was a time when Sam Wok's bizarre, sleazy, and entirely delicious rice roll long donut would have snapped up this category, but they've removed that tasty heart-clogger from the menu with their relocation to new digs that won't accommodate a steamer for the rice wrappers. Lee House, the little Korean restaurant just south of Whyte Ave.'s drunkest stretch, jumps into the breach with these additive morsels of crisped fried chicken drenched in a livid red, sweet, spicy sauce, deposits of which have begun to collect on my lower back.

Best midday treat: TIE! Handy Bakery's pastel de nata (8660-118 Ave.) / Sunterra Market's chocolate chip oatmeal cookie (Manulife Place)

If you don't have time to slip away to a quiet public park or parkade stairwell for a furtive quickie with that special someone (or that special whatever), you can always slake a different appetite with a pastel de nata—a flaky pastry cup filled with sweet baked custard—from the Handy Bakery or Sunterra's saucer-sized chocolate chip oatmeal cookies. Both are much, much cheaper than a citation for public indecency.

Best? Where?



HIDDEN NINJA FISH GRIWKOWSKY TO COMBAT ALL THE "BESTS" WE'RE SLINGING THIS WEEK, OUR PERENNIAL LIFE CRITIC LISTS THE SHITTIEST TRENDS AND HAPPENINGS AROUND YEG

Ah, lists! You may think we're being lazy with all this Best of Edmonton coverage—but to be totally honest with you, it's backbreaking work. It's actually tough to stand back and objectively look at what's gone on in the city since the last time Garage Burger won Best Burger once again. Our shirts are half off and there is sweat amid the contemplation.

For the most part, the SEE poll (like our entire civilization) is concerned with consumables of one sort or another, be they ethnic restaurants, cultural buffets, or polished media celebrities. As a cheap-ass philosopher of some limited value, my favourite questions always have more to do with abstracts, like Scariest Intersection: for me the answer to that one being "the intersection of stubborn Albertans and the ballot box," nyuk nyuk. But, seriously, questions about our specific culture are the ones that burrow deepest, and as I list off my own biased Best (Though Mostly Shittiest) Of YEG, all I ask is that you ask yourself, are we heading for a better or worse place?

SHITTIEST NEW TREND

The Death of Signalling. Why the fuck doesn't anyone know how to signal any more? It's quite easy, you know. Left, right, all that. Closest I can figure, it's now considered some kind of act of "pussy."

SHITTIEST SCAM

Two words: New Arena.

SHITTIEST DODGE

Ed's Wind Power Lie. I know it's

been a couple weeks and therefore ancient history, but remember when Stelmach responded to the tailings pond dead ducks by saying compared to the number killed by wind power, Fort Mac's 500 quackers were insignificant. Total bullshit. Nationally, turbines take out about 1000 birds per period. In Alberta, about 150. A year. Numbers aside, two things to note the premier will just make things up when he wants, and the reasons for him doing so will serve big oil. Undeniable evidence. Depressing, really.

BEST HOPE FOR US ALL

The Housing Slowdown. A friend of mine lost hundreds of thousands on a place during the grab-and-flip frenzy, but it's still nice to see some general, cautioned exhaling. I think we all agree, even if you're frantically raking in the paper: booms suck. They're stressful, environmentally horrible, and greed sits low in the air like hovering sheets of factory exhaust.

SHITTIEST ABOMINATION ON OUR STREETS

The Giant Black Truck. Now that Whyte has descended to the cruising back-and-forth depths of 1989 Hanra, rural Alberta's Saturday night main-street—the exact place that spawned Nickelback—the gimp parade is on! Mutilated VWs, smoke-belching Harleys, and the odd hot Z-28 waste gas for the sake of confused bravado, eking slowly down the trashy corridor of teenage hookers. It's the vehicular equivalent of smoking three packs a nanosecond. Worst among the offenders is the JizzWhale: a staggeringly behemoth, four-door, black Ford F650 jacked up on monster tires, mud flaps the size of Leduc. Its ironic contents? Pure, microscopic penis.

BEST THING WE APPRECIATE AROUND HERE

You, Seriously, the fact that you're not "reading" about some bullshit Hollywood celebrity's fucking cellulite troubles right now warms my heart. I thanks and applauds you greatly, homie. Tight.

RESTO CAPS • REVIEWS

BURGERS

MOTORAUZ (12406-66 St.) Although the food is relatively good, the real reason to visit Motorauz is to see the physical structure of the place. To say it's unique hardly does it justice. Unless you've been before, you're likely never had an experience like Motorauz.

★★★★☆

CAFÉ

MILL CREEK CAFÉ (9562-82 Ave.) If you're visiting Edmonton and staying downtown, walk south down the stairs at the MacDonald, cross the bridge, and head into Mill Creek Ravine. Follow the path, go up the hill at the Mill Creek Pool parking lot and wander right to the Mill Creek Café for a light bite to eat. That way, you'll experience both the great geography and the small-town hospitality we're so proud of.

★★★★☆

CASUAL ELEGANT

BACON (6509-112 Ave.) This great little bohemian-chic restaurant offers a limited choice of familiar (ish) items with some innovative twists. By pairing locally produced items with some deft hands in the kitchen, they manage to pull off simple organic dishes that are worth remembering.

★★★★☆

CHINESE

NEW TAN TAN (10133-97 St.) If you're a dim sum veteran, you'll probably be happy enough with the New Tan Tan and its somewhat "rugged" style. But if you're new to this type of service and are looking for dim sum for dum-dums, you might want to try someplace a little less...haggard?

★★★★☆

EUROPEAN

CONTINENTAL TREAT (10560-82 Ave.) Definitely not

the type of place that hopes to dazzle you with its creativity—the menu consists mostly of standard (somewhat plain) preparations of Eastern European favourites. It's the type of restaurant that used to set the standard for high-class dining, and it can still be a nice treat.

★★★★☆

FINE DINING

HARDWARE GRILL (3698 JASPER AVE.) Arguably one of the best restaurants in Edmonton. Be warned, however: If you go, it's an undertaking. Definitely not the type of place you just pop into with friends on a whim. Be prepared to fast for at least a week before going, and hibernate afterwards: the portions are way too big (and are priced accordingly).

★★★★☆

MADISON'S GRILL (10053 JASPER AVE.) Without a doubt, one of the top restaurants in Edmonton. The warm and comfortable surroundings make this a perfect place for a romantic getaway, or for that special occasion.

★★★★☆

FRENCH

LA TABLE DE RENAISSANCE (10046-101A Ave.) I can't think of a better way to spend your lunch hour or a warm summer evening than sitting on La Table de Renaissance's patio enjoying one of their traditionally prepared Provencal classics. A nice touch of café culture here in downtown Edmonton.

★★★★☆

HOTEL

HOTEL MACDONALD (CONFEDERATION LOUNGE) (10065-100 St.) Wondering whatever happened to the grand old tradition of hotel dining? It's at the Hotel Macdonald. But if you're not up to dropping some large coin on a meal, pop by the Mac's Confederation Room for a glass of wine and a bite to eat. It's a guilty pleasure everyone should experience once.

★★★★☆

INDIAN

TANDOORI GRILL EXPRESS & MONTREAL DELI (6508-75 St.) Despite the odd menu, these folks are capable of some fine cuisine. If you go, spend some time chatting with the staff and see if they can prepare any of your favourites. If so, you just might find that you have a new favourite tandoori restaurant.

★★★★☆

ITALIAN

SANTOS PIZZA AND STEAK (10821-95 St.) Excellent place for a lunch sandwich in the heart of Edmonton's little Italy. It's not all fancy schmancy and uptight, but then again it isn't all fancy schmancy and uptight. They offer good standard Italian fare, prepared well at reasonable prices. What's not to like?

EVENTS

2008 ALBERTA LITERARY AWARDS JUNE 7-7 PM. ROYAL ALBERTA MUSEUM, 12845-102 AVE. Celebrating some of Alberta's best writers. Dinner, dancing, and presentations. Tickets: \$60 at 422-8074.

ADULT CANOE 2 COURSE JUNE 3 & 10, 7 PM. JUNE 8, 10 AM. UNIVERSITY AREA. Course in defensive cycling for commuters and recreational cyclists ready to ride in traffic. To register: \$80 at 433-1270.

THE ART OF LIVING: HOW A THOUSAND VOICES BUILT ONE CULTURAL PLAN

JUNE 3, 11:30 AM. HOTEL MACDONALD.

Sponsored by the Marketing Research and Intelligence Association - Alberta Chapter. Featuring Cathrin Owen and John Mahon. To register call Alex Moore at 485-6558 ext. 2201.

BLOCK TO SHOP SUMMER FASHION SHOW JUNE 4, 8 PM. VINYL RETRO DANCE LOUNGE, 10739 JASPER AVE.

Portion of proceeds goes towards the Edmonton Humane Society. Featuring fashion by Singer Apparel, Caprice in Glenora, and more. Tickets: \$20 all the door.

THE CARROT ARTS MARKET EVERY SAT, 10 AM-2 PM. THE CARROT ARTS COFFEEHOUSE, 9351-118 AVE. Artists and artisans from the community and beyond share unique gifts, crafts, and artwork. Info: www.thecarrot.ca

CREATIVE AGE FESTIVAL JUNE 2-8. VARIOUS LOCATIONS Celebrating arts and aging with workshops, screenings, and performances. Info: www.creativeagefestival.ca

EDMONTON IN MOTION MAY 31-JUNE 1, NOON. TELUS WORLD OF SCIENCE, 10211-142 ST. Look at how technology helps us keep everyone healthy and active through a look at athletic opportunities in wheelchair, amputee, and blind sports. Info: 455-5882.

FIRST ANNUAL TREASURE LIFE GOLF CLASSIC MAY 29, 8 AM. COLONIAL GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB, BEAUMONT. Bringing awareness to the Evan Ty Jenkins Pediatric Research Foundation. Includes Texas Scramble tournament and silent auction. Info: Rick 990-6120.

GHOSTS AND GRAVEYARDS TOUR EVERY THURSDAY, 7 PM. 10338-81 AVE. Presented by Nite Tours. A tour of various haunted locales. Tickets: \$30 at 454-0303.

HIGHLANDS 3RD ANNUAL STREET FESTIVAL MAY 31, 10 AM. 102 AVE & 64 ST. Showcasing 40 artists, crafters, designers, indie businesses along with musicians and performers. Info: Juliana 471-2422.

ON SAFARI JULY 7, 6:30 PM. VALLEY 200. Major annual fundraiser for the Valley Zoo Development Society. All funds raised by the event go towards new and ongoing projects at the Valley Zoo. Tickets: \$75 at gift shop or 496-6924.

OPEN PHOTO 2008 MAY 29-JUNE 11. VISUAL ARTS ALBERTA GALLERY, 10215-112 ST. The VAAA presents the first annual photography competition and exhibition of some of Alberta's finest photographers. Info: 421-1731.

MANHUNT.NET'S 7 SEXY SINS OF SUMMER TOUR JUNE 13, 8 PM. NEW CITY SUBURBS. Evening boasts entertainment from Raging Stallion Exclusive Ricky Siro, music from DJ Sexy Sean and Squibly B, g!t bags, go boys, door prizes and debauchery. Tickets \$20 w/ gift bag or 11X or \$10 at door.

RAISE THE ROOF FOR YOUTH MAY 31, 7 PM. ELLERSLIE ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH, 10603 ELLERSLIE RD. Benefit concert for the Edmonton Inner City Children's Project. Includes performances by the Edmonton Youth Choir, HSM Dance Team, and the Allegiance Drime Team. Admission by donation. Info: Jennifer 434-4626.

SHAKESPEARE ON FILM MAY 29, 8 PM. METRO CINEMA, 9828-101A AVE. Series of the best Shakespeare on screen. Begins with Kenneth Branagh's 2006 interpretation of "As You Like It". Tickets: \$10 all door.

SHARE THE HOPE FUNDRAISER MAY 31, 6 PM. SANDS HOTEL, 12340 FORT RD. Silent auction and dinner. All raise funds for AIDS orphans in Zimbabwe. Tickets: \$30 all door.

SIYAWELA: A SOUTH AFRICAN WINE TASTING CELEBRATION MAY 31, 7:30 PM. COAST EDMONTON PLAZA HOTEL, 10155-105 ST. Every Life Matters hosts a wine tasting and silent auction. All proceeds go to help orphans of HIV/AIDS in South Africa. Tickets: \$55 at www.everylifematters.ca.

WOMEN'S LUNCHEON MAY 31, 11:30 AM. MCDOWALL UNITED CHURCH, 10025-101 ST. MLA Laurie Blakeman will discuss women in politics. Q & A will follow lunch. Tickets: \$8, register in advance or 488-1818.

YARD SALE FOR THE CURE MAY 31, 10 AM-4 PM, 10771 SASKATCHEWAN DR. ReMax River City will be hosting the yard sale and BBQ, all proceeds go to breast cancer research. Info: 271-8326.

for adult children of alcoholic and dysfunctional families. **ALBERTA ENTREPRENEURS ASSOCIATION 3RD TUE EVERY MONTH, 5:30-9 PM. THE FACULTY CLUB, 11435 SASK DR.** Pre-register at www.aea.ab.ca.

CINE-CLUB D'EDMONTON 1ST MON EVERY MONTH, 7 PM. AUDITORIUM DU CAMPUS SAINT-JEAN, U OF A. Donations accepted at the door.

COUNCIL OF CANADIANS MAY 21, 7 PM. GRANDIN GREEN CO-OP BUILDING, 9708-110 ST. Annual General meeting. Sean Curry from the Canadian Peace Congress will speak of his experiences at the International Peace Conference in Venezuela. Info: 429-5200.

EDMONTON NATURE CLUB MONTHLY MEETINGS, ROYAL ALBERTA MUSEUM, 12845-102 AVE. A informative monthly meetings with guest speakers. Info: Mark, 430-7334 or mrene@telusplanet.net.

FORWARD THINKERS TOASTMASTERS CLUB TUE, 7 PM. STRATHCONA CITY BUILDING, 2001 SHERWOOD DRIVE, SHERWOOD PARK. Build self-confidence and communication skills. Info: 922-3835.

FRENCH CONVERSATION THU, ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE, #202, 8627 RUE MARIE-ANNE GABOURY. Info: Godfrey, 469-0399.

HIP MAMAS MEET-UP. Young mothers and their babies meet several times a week. Free to join, plenty of friends to be made. Info: hipmama.meetup.com/151/.

ILLUSIONS SOCIAL CLUB 2ND THU EVERY MONTH, 8 PM. WOODYS, 2ND FL., 11723 JASPER AVE. Cross-dresses, transsexuals, friends, and supporters meet. Info: 387-3343 or groups.yahoo.com/group/edmonton_illusions.

IMAGES ALBERTA CAMERA CLUB 2ND AND 4TH THU EVERY MONTH, 8 PM. SEP-MAY. PLEASANTVIEW COMMUNITY HALL, 10860-57 AVE. Presentations, speakers, workshops, outings, monthly and year-end competitions. Photographers enthusiasts of all levels welcome. Info: www.imagesab.com or Sheila, 469-9776. Muffy, 452-6224.

INNOVATORS' NETWORKING CLUB TUE, 11:30 AM-1 PM. CAFE SELECT SOUTH, 109 ST. & 8 AVE. Business networking group, mixer, and club membership drive. Info: Dwayne, 463-6240 or dwayne@hthaken.ca.

MKP MENS GROUP EVERY MON, 7 PM. Men's meeting. Info: www.mkp.org or Garrett, 452-5107.

NORATORS TOASTMASTERS CLUB WED, 7:8:45 PM. LONDONDERRY PUBLIC LIBRARY, LONDONDERRY MALL, 137 AVE. & 81 ST. Learn to speak clearly and with confidence in a supportive group. Info: www.norators.com.

NORWOOD TOASTMASTERS CLUB THU, 8-10 PM. 10425 KINGSWAY AVE. Improve public speaking and communication skills in a fun and educational environment. Info: 465-3934 or www.norwoodtoastmasters.org.

POWER SPEAKERS TOASTMASTERS CLUB WED 7-9 PM. GRANT MACEWAN COLLEGE CENTRE FOR THE ARTS, RM 437

Learn to speak with confidence in a supportive environment. Info: 732-0593 or www.powerpeakers.ca.

SUPPORT GROUP FOR WOMEN'S ISSUES Weekly drop-in meetings, providing resources and information on self-esteem, mental health, and employment. Men welcome to attend. Info: 496-5930.

TOURETTE SYNDROME SUPPORT 1ST WED EVERY MONTH (OCT-JUNE), 7 PM. ACADEMY @ KING EDWARD, 8525 111 ST., NORTH DOOR. Meeting for TS adults and parents at TS kids. Info: 1-866-824-9764.

UPWARD BOUND TOASTMASTERS CLUB WED, 7:8:30 PM. RM 601, NORQUIST COLLEGE, 10215-108 ST. Improve listening, speaking, and overall communication skills. Info: Roger 454-3720, Theresa 488-4098, or adams@skizit.net.

WEST-END TOASTMASTER CLUB TUE, 6:45-8 PM. JASPER PLACE LIBRARY, 9010-156 ST. Friendly environment of personal progress and mutual support. Info: 495-5424.

WOW-WIRED ON WORDS SUN, 11 AM-1:15 PM. THREE BANANAS CAFE, CHURCHILL SQUARE. An eclectic creative writing group welcoming both professional and amateur writers. Suggested donation \$10. Monthly meetings. Info: bewell.2008@gmail.com.

YOUNG COMMUNITY LEAGUE 2ND FRI EVERY MONTH, 5 PM. REMEDY CAFE, 8631-109 ST. For discussion topics and suggested readings. Info: www.facebook.com/group.phpgid=355925104.

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HEALTH & WELLNESS

"BENEFITS, OPPORTUNITIES AND ADVOCACY TO AISH RECIPIENTS" MAY 11, 1 PM. GENERAL HOSPITAL AUDITORIUM, 11111 JASPER AVE. Informative session on AISH benefits with speakers from the AISH Community Supports, NorQuest College, and more. Tickets: \$10 all TIX.

CANADIAN NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE 11:00-10:15 ST, 479-9999. A range of services for members of the Native community, including a free community lunch Fridays at noon, employment and Public Health information, counselling referrals and one-on-one support. AADAC & Legal TIX referrals, low cost or free beds, housing and clothing referrals. Info: 479-9999.

CLUB LULU LULULEMON, 10544-82 AVE. Weekly activities to get you moving. Info: www.lululemon.com, 435-9363 or whyte-community@lululemon.com.

COMMUNITY WEIGHT-LOSS CHALLENGE VARIOUS LOCATIONS. 6-week course on dieting and active lifestyles. Info: Laris, 966-0185.

CONSTELLATION EVERY 1ST & 3RD WED, 7 PM. 10431-37 AVE. A unique healing process, transforming past burdens into positive affirmations. Info: 967-9162 or constellation-currents.ca

FREE YOGA CLASS EVERY SUN, 6-7 PM. LULULEMON ATHLETICA KINGSWAY. Levels welcome. new styles each week. mats provided. Info: 471-1200 or kingswaygarden-community@lululemon.com

GENTLE YOGA RADHA YOGA 9946-87 AVE. Weekly classes in small group settings. Sunday Satyang (by donation). Call Bill schedule and fees. Info: 432-3363 or www.radha.org

LIVING POSITIVE TUE, 7-9 PM. SUITE 50, 9912-106 ST. Confidential space where POC people can discuss and share common issues of concern. A peer-driven AIDS service organization, providing direct support to people living with HIV in Alberta. Info: 488-5768 or edmlivingpositive.ca

LOTUS SOUL GYM YOGA STUDIO 10518-82 AVE. Multidisciplinary yoga studio offering drop-in and registered classes in hatha, vinyasa flow, Pilates, yoga for runners, pre-natal, post-natal, mommy & me, and partner workshops. All levels welcome. Info: www.lotussoulgy.com, 434-9642 or info@lotussoulgy.com

MADELEINE SANAM FOUNDATION 3RD & 4TH SAT EVERY MONTH, 9 AM-5 PM. FACULTE SAINT-JEAN, 8406-91 ST. RM 3-18. All organization of the emancipation and autonomy of African women, providing programs on economy, community health, training on HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and harm reduction. French, English and African languages. Admission free for members, membership \$10. Info: 490-7332.

MEDITATION AND BUDDHIST TEACHINGS GADEN SAMTEN LING TIBETAN BUDDHIST MEDITATION SOCIETY, 11409-101 ST. Meditation and Buddhist teachings. Resident teacher, Tibetan Buddhist monk Kushok Loasang Chanzhoe. Beginners Tue 7 pm. Intermediate Wed 7 pm. Advanced practices Sun 11 am. Info: 479-0014 or www.gadensantenling.org

MS ACTIVE NOW #150, 9405-50 ST. Recreation and physical wellness programs. Info: 471-3034.

RADHA YOGA VARIOUS LOCATIONS. Classes include gentle hatha, hidden language/reflective hatha, dream yoga, kundalini/power of choice and meditation. Info: 432-3363, class dates at www.radha.org/edmonton.

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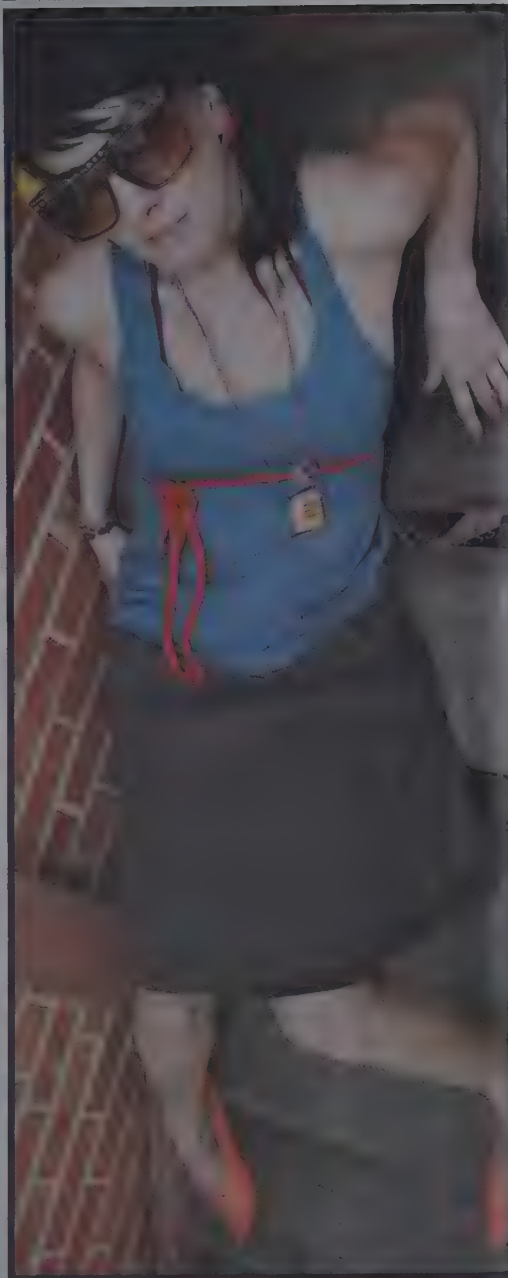
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myLook

Krystin Clarke | Dancer/Visual Artist
BY CHRIS LEWIS

My Look: Rainbow Warrior

Hair: I do it myself.

Wearing: The top and the belt are from American Apparel. The skirt is from Urban Outfitters. I got the shoes in New York from Irregular Choice. The necklace with the wooden pendant is from Twee, which is a local design group; I made the other one. The earrings and the sunglasses are from Pop Shop in Montreal.

Into: Choreography. I'm choreographing an upcoming show at ECD right now. I've been thinking of starting my own dance company, too... I'd heard of a study that said that some people are really affected by music, and for me, dance is inseparable from music. I also make art. My stuff will be at Art Walk and the Cabinet Gallery in Nokomis. I also like awkward situations. And reading about the explorers Lewis and Clark.

RAJA YOGA MEDITATION #208 10132-105 ST. In association with Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual Organization. Info: www.bkwsu.org or 425-1050.

RESTORATIVE YOGA MON-THU BY APPOINTMENT 10355-105 ST. Learn restorative, vinyasa yoga, and pilates for individuals and small groups. Eight class card pass for \$64. Info: 478-3773.

RIVER VALLEY RUNNERS THU & THU 5:15-6:45 PM RIVERDALE COMMUNITY HALL, 9231-100 AVE. Coached training for running on Edmonton's extensive river valley trails, includes warm up and cool down. Info: www.rivervalleyrunners.com or 447-1909.

SQUAD POWER MAY 31, 10 AM & JUNE 1, 1 PM. UNITY CHURCH OF EDMONTON, 1270-106 AVE. Workshop will teach healing techniques presented by Dr. Zhi Gang Sha. Info: Yvonne, 913-6465.

TOPS: TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY THU 6:30-7:30 PM. ALLENDALE COMMUNITY LEAGUE, 6330-105A ST. Weight loss support and information. First meeting is free. Info: TOPS4990@hotmail.com.

TRANQUILITY WEIGHT LOSS WED, 7 PM. 10502-70 AVE. Tibetan tradition. Free, beginners welcome. Instruction available. Info: Lama Ani Kunsang, 633-6157 or www.kamatashling.org.

LEARNING

AFRICAN DANCE CLASSES 10275 JASPER AVE. Movements, the Afro-Caribbean dance ensemble, offers African dance classes and workshops at all levels. Info: 415-5211 or www.movementsdance.com.

BEDOUIN BEATS MIDDLE EASTERN DANCE 2ND FLOOR, 12316 JASPER AVE. For all skill levels. Info: 722-9773 or denise@aqabelladydancer.com.

DROP-IN ART FOR THE ARTIST AT HEART PROFILES PUBLIC ART GALLERY, 19 PERRON ST., ST. ALBERT. Info: Glenda, 460-4310 or ahglenda@telus.net.

EDMONTON WEAVERS' GUILD Classes on weaving, spinning and various workshops. Info: Sonja, 425-1152 or ewg@interbaun.com.

EDMONTON WRITERS' CENTRE STANLEY A. MILLNER LIBRARY, #7 CHURCHILL SQUARE. A creative space for writers of all genres and levels. Hours: Mon-Fri 9 am-9 pm, Sat 9 am-6 pm, Sun 1-5 pm. Info: 496-7070.

FANVA WORKSHOPS The Film and Video Arts Society offers one-night workshops twice a month in a variety of media activities. Info: www.fanva.ca or 429-1671.

FLAMENCO LESSONS TEACH & MON, 2:30-3:30 PM. Judith and Oscar Jose Garcia teach both Flamenco dance & guitar. Info: 1-800-349-4843 or ogarcia@telusplanet.net.

KARATE INSTRUCTION Classes for kids over 10, teens, and adults. Info: www.karatatowin.com or 975-6910.

KITA NO TAIKO JAPANESE DRUMMING WORKSHOPS Schedules, info, and registration: www.kitanotai.co.ca or 431-0300.

MARS HILL CENTRE 88318-104 ST., 435-0202 Classes and workshops on the recovery process. Registration on a sliding scale, based on participant's income. Info: www.marshillcentre.com.

MEDIA MAG WORKSHOPS EDMONTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, #600, 9990 JASPER AVE. Info: www.mediamag.ca or 695-5675.

NORTHERN RIVER KARATE SCHOOL THU, THU & SAT, BELGRAVIA COMMUNITY HALL, 11540-73 AVE. Weekly classes in Karate, Kobudo, Yoga, Qi gong, and Sipping Meditation. Info: www.threetables.com.

SALSA LESSONS WED & THU, LA KANTINA LATIN CLUB, 10805-105 AVE. Free salsa lessons every Wednesday and Thursday. Info: 428-7665.

QUEER

AGAPE EDUCATION FACULTY, U OF A CAMPUS Focus group on sex and gender differences in education and culture. Pre-service and practicing teachers, community members welcome. Info: andre.grace@ualberta.ca or 492-0772.

EPS/LGBTQ LIAISON COMMITTEE The EPS/LGBTQ Liaison Committee is composed of a variety of concerned lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans-identified, two-spirited, queer, allied community members, and police officers. Email questions or concerns to epsinfo@ualberta.ca. All inquiries treated with confidentiality and respect. To report a hate or bias motivated crime, contact the EPS Hate & Bias Crime Unit, 421-3489.

INSIDE/OUT U of A Campus-based organization for LGBTQ faculty, graduates, academic & staff. Straight allies welcome. Monthly meetings. Info: kwell@ualberta.ca or mwhorham@ualberta.ca.

PRIDE CENTRE 9540-111 AVE., 488-3234. Hours: Tue-Fri 1-10 pm, Sat 12-6:30 pm. Drop-in, library, and community internet services are available. Online newsletter Hours: Tue-Fri 1-10 pm, Sat 12-6:30 pm. Info: 488-3234 or www.pridecentreofedmonton.org.

TEAM EDMONTON A volunteer operated, non-profit society for members and friends of the LGBT community, offering well organized and fun sporting events and other recreational activities within a positive social framework. Info: www.teamedmonton.org.

WOMONS SPACE Non-profit lesbian organization for Edmonton and surrounding area. Organized monthly activities. Memberships available, including monthly newsletter. Confidentiality assured. Info: www.gaycanada.com/womonspace, womonspace@gmail.com, or 482-1794.

YOUTHSPEACE PRIDE CENTRE OF EDMONTON, 9540-111 AVE. An after-school drop-in program for gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans-identified, queer, questioning, and allied (GLBTQBA) youth under 25. Open Tue-Sat 3-7 pm. Info: brendan@pridecentreofedmonton.org or 488-3234.

THURSDAY

BI-SEXUAL WOMEN'S COFFEE GROUP 2ND THU EVERY MONTH, 7:30 PM. A social group for bi-curious and bi-sexual women. Info: groups.yahoo.com/group/bwedmonton.

FREE TO BE INTERMEDIATE VOLLEYBALL 8-10 PM, 101 AMISKWICAC ACADEMY Info: volleyball@teamedmonton.ca.

GAYWIRE 6 PM, CJSR 88.5 FM Edmonton's only radio show concerning gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered issues. News, local and international features, and community events.

LGBT SENIORS DROP IN 1:30-3:30 PM, PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE. Social meeting for seniors of all genders. Info: jeff.488-3234.

ILLUSIONS SOCIAL CLUB 2ND THU EVERY MONTH, 8 PM, 8007S, 10242-106 ST. Cross-dressers, transsexuals, friends, and supporters meet. Info: 387-3343 or groups.yahoo.com/group/edmonton_illusions.

FRIDAY

YOUTH MOVIE NIGHT 6 PM, PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE.

SATURDAY

NORTHERN TITANS GLBT BOWLING LEAGUE 7 PM, GATEWAY LANES & RECREATION CENTRE, #100, 3474 GATEWAY BLVD. \$15 per person. Info: bowling@teamedmonton.ca.

SINGLE LESBIANS OVER 40 Women's social group, monthly gatherings for conversation over tea and coffee. Info: singlewomen40plus@hotmail.com.

YOUTH UNDERSTANDING YOUTH 7-9 PM, PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, straight, and questioning youth (up to 25) gather to have fun and learn in a safe, supportive environment. Info: yuy@shaw.ca.

SUNDAY

ARCTIC FRONTRUNNERS 10 AM Runners of all levels of ability welcome. Runs are typically 6-8 km, usually 44-60 minutes. Coffee afterwards. Info on venues and other runs during the week running@teamedmonton.ca, or 436-1892.

BALLROOM DANCING 8:30-8:30 PM All gender combinations welcome. Salsa, rhumba, waltz, jive. Info: 469-3281 or ballroom@teamedmonton.org.

EDMONTON PRIME TIMERS (EPT) 2ND SUN, MOST MONTHS, 2:30 PM, UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EDMONTON, 10810-119 ST. Older gay men and admirers meet for a social period, short business meeting, followed by guest speaker,

discussion panel, or potluck supper. Special interest groups meet for other activities throughout the month. EPT is affiliated with Prime Timers World Wide. Info: edmontontpt@yahoo.ca or www.primetimersworldwide.org/edmonton.

HATHA YOGA 2:30 PM, LION'S BREATH YOGA. Introductory level class. Free. No previous experience required. Bring yoga mat or towel and water. Info: yoga@teamedmonton.ca.

LAMBDA CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH 7 PM, GARNEAU UNITED CHURCH, 11469-84 AVE. Lambda provides a safe and healing space for Edmonton's gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and heterosexual Christians. All denominations and faiths welcome. Info: 887-8611 or lambdachurch@shaw.ca.

MEN TALKING WITH PRIDE 7 PM, PRIDE CENTRE 9540-111 AVE. Men's social and discussion group, facilitated by Rob Wells. Info: robwells70@hotmail.com or 488-3234.

SOUL OUTING 3RD SUN EVERY MONTH, 7 PM, ROBERTSON-WESLEY UNITED CHURCH, 10209 123 ST. LGBT-focused alternative worship. Info: 482-1587 or email@ravenscroft.org.

SOUTHMINSTER-STEINHAUER UNITED CHURCH 10 AM, 10240 10 AVE. Welcomes all sexual orientations. Info: 987-4974.

SPIRITUAL LIVING CENTRE Info: www.spirituallivingcentre.com or 989-4757.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH 10 AM, 11526-76 AVE. All orientations welcome for Sunday service. Info: 436-1555 or www.afirmunited.ca.

TRANS EDUCATION & SUPPORT GROUP 1ST & 3RD SUN EVERY MONTH, 2 PM, PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE. Provides support and education for all transsexual, transgendered, intersexed, two-spirited, and questioning individuals. Info: www.albertatrans.org or 488-3234.

WOMONSPEACE BOARD MEETING 1ST SUN EVERY MONTH, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM, PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE.

MONDAY

HIV SUPPORT GROUP 2ND MON EVERY MONTH, 7-9 PM, PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE. Info: Richard, 488-3234 or richard@pridecentreofedmonton.org.

TUESDAY

FREEDOM METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF EDMONTON 7:15 PM, 10086 MACDONALD DR. A church for all people. Info: 429-2321.

LGBT SENIORS DROP IN 1:30-3:30 PM, PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE. Social meeting for seniors of all genders. Info: jeff.488-3234.

MAKING WAVES SWIMMING CLUB NAUT POOL, 10762-106 ST. Recreational and competitive swimming and coaching. Beginners encouraged to participate. Practices every Tue (8-9 pm) and Thu (7:30-8:30 pm), followed by social meeting.

Info: swimming@teamedmonton.ca.

OUTREACH 5 PM, HERITAGE ROOM, ATHABASCA HALL, U OF A CAMPUS U A based group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and straight-but-friendly students, staff, and faculty. Open to the community outside the U of A. Info: www.outreach.pixelsmitty.com or outreach@ualberta.ca.

PFLAG EDMONTON 1ST TUE EVERY MONTH, 7 PM, PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE. Support meeting for parents, families, and friends of GLBT individuals. Info: 488-3234.

STEP AEROBICS 5 PM, AEROBICS STUDIO, KINSMEN SPORTS CENTRE, 9100 WALTERDALE HILL. Info: step@teamedmonton.ca.

TRANS SUPPORT GROUP 2ND TUE EVERY MONTH, 7:30-9:30 PM, GARNEAU UNITED CHURCH MEETING ROOM, 11469-84 AVE. Support meeting for trans-identified and questioning people. Info: 718-1472 or tigallian@shaw.ca.

TTIQ ALLIANCE 2ND TUE EVERY MONTH, 7:30 PM, PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE. Support meeting for transgender, transsexual, intersex, and questioning individuals. Providing education, advocacy and support for men, women, and youth.

WEDNESDAY

EDMONTON RAINBOW BUSINESS ASSOCIATION 2ND WED EVERY MONTH Casual networking with the GLBT business community. Locations listed on www.edmontonrainbow.org.

FREE TO BE RECREATIONAL VOLLEYBALL 8-10 PM, 101 AMISKWICAC ACADEMY \$50 per season. Info: revolleyball@teamedmonton.ca.

OPEN DOOR CLUB 5 PM, GRANT MACFARLANE COLLEGE, CITY CENTRE CAMPUS, RM 6-20 Social group for GLBTQ students, faculty, and friends at GMCC.

TEAM EDMONTON BADMINTON 6 PM, OLIVER SCHOOL, GYM, 10227-118 ST. Women's drop-in recreational badminton. All levels welcome. \$30 for the season, \$5 drop-in. Info: 465-3620.

YOURS, MINE, OURS AND US (YMOU) 1ST AND 3RD WED EVERY MONTH Support group for GLBT parents, partners, and friends. Info: 426-6311 or 415-5434.

YOUTH THEATRE PROJECT 7 PM, PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE. Using theatre to increase awareness and reduce homophobic bullying. Info: theatre@pridecentreofedmonton.org.

BATH HOUSES

DOWN UNDER 1224 JASPER AVE., 482-7960 Open 24/7. Info: www.gayedmonton.com.

STEAMWORKS 11745 JASPER AVE., 451-5554 Open 24/7.



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MUSIC ROUND-UP • PUNK WASH-UPS • BY EAMON MCGRATH AND TRAVIS SARGENT | 1904 words

Bands Turned To Beached Whales

WE EXAMINE THE ONCE MIGHTY PUNK ROCK BANDS THAT HAVE WASHED UP ON THE SHORE OF MUSICAL BATHOS AND REDUNDANCY

TEENAGE HEAD

June 1 (8 pm), New City Suburbs, 10080 Jasper Ave. Tickets \$13 @ Megatunes, Mars & Venus, or at the door.

You know it well. It's that sinking feeling you get when you see a once mighty band hobble back onstage way way past their prime: wretched, old, and very likely too drugged to know where they are.

It happens to every band that doesn't know when to pack it in—that fatal stage of “washed up.” Just in time for Teenage Head's stop in town—one of Canada's best examples of beached whale memory-lane punk superstars—SEE's resident punk rock critics Eamon McGrath and Travis Sargent take a look at some of the bands whose careers took that dreaded and feared one-eighty degree turn from street cred to beat dead.

New York Dolls: Est. 1971

The turn of the century brought newfound interest in early American punk, and while every douchey radio rock band was sporting corny Ramones t-shirts, the Dolls were dusting off their platform shoes and sequined tube tops. Even though the heart of the group, Johnny Thunders, had fallen prey to the Chinese Rock nearly fifteen years prior, the band released the acclaimed album *One Day It Will Please Us to Remember Even This* in 2006. Bassist Arthur “Killer” Kane died shortly afterward, but a saggy Sylvain Sylvain and droopy David Johansen continue to play as the New York Dolls to this day. At least he'll never make another Buster Poindexter album, right?



He's Still Wearing His Ramones Shirt, For Fuck's Sake | Some things really should have been retired long, long, long ago. PHOTO BY STEPHANIE BELL

Teenage Head: Est. circa 1975

Frequently referred to as the “Canadian Ramones,” Hamilton, Ontario's Teenage Head put Eastern Canadian punk on the map and incited riots—including the infamous show in 1978 documented in the cult short film *The Last Pogo*. Equally as unfortunate for Teenage Head, they're not exactly “teenage” anymore: it's more along the lines of Old-Age Head. Which is fine, except this aspect of their name isn't now so much the rebellious tongue-in-cheek clever double entendre as it is a description of what the creepy old men in the band are hoping for in the tour van every night. Yuck. Catch 'em in all their glory at New City on Sunday.

The Misfits: Est. 1977

Famed for their sanguinary song writing, the Misfits' leather jackets, spooky aesthetics, and DIY “Fiend” Club all garnered popularity among ghoulish teens until the band's abrupt breakup in 1983. While singer Glenn Danzig kept it creepy with horror-punk and heavy metal bands like Samhain and Danzig, bass-

ist Jerry Only chose to roll with the Man Upstairs and formed Christian metal group Kryst the Conqueror. The Misfits re-formed mid-nineties sans Danzig, squeezing out two or three shitty albums, a bunch of crappy toys, several WWF appearances, and licensing their classic Crimson Ghost logo to every product imaginable, from chain wallets to cum-rags. You can probably even find a set of Misfits dumbbells, but the real dumbbells are the ones shelling out fifty bucks for tickets to see these New Joisey muscleheads in concert.

The Police: Est. 1977

I'll admit that I jumped at the chance to catch the Police on last year's summer tour, but after witnessing five minutes of these guys go through the motions, it became obvious that their reunion was an undeniable cash-in. Rumor has it that band members were each paid a million dollars per gig, a sum that I would gladly pony up in exchange for having the memory of Andy Summers' saggy man-tits and *South Park* guitar strap erased from my mind forever. While

he was championed for introducing reggae to the American Billboard charts in the '80s, Sting also introduced tantric sex to a generation of yuppie slob, so you probably have him to thank for the armies of coked-out teenage trustfunders partying on Whyte Avenue every weekend. Cheers, mate.

DOA: Est. 1978

Joey “Shithead” Keithley has done it all, and maybe that's why DOA should finally pack it in: there's nothing more to do. On the book tour for his “page-turner” memoir *I, Shithead*, the stories Keithley told from the book had to be taken from cues on a who-knows-what-stained piece of old set-list paper (probably from some long-forgotten Winnipeg punk club in the eighties) to enable his drug and booze-addled brain to distinguish one night involving absinthe and speed from another. Something tells me it might be time to give the brain cells a rest, especially if the kids in his Vancouver neighbourhood start calling him “Ol' Grampa Shits.” But then, he'll probably hand them

a copy of DOA's landmark *Hardcore '81* and tell them a story about walking to school uphill in snowshoes both ways and they'll sit and stare in total awe around the hot-stove.

SNFU: Est. 1981

At this point it's pretty much impossible for Edmonton's punk heroes SNFU to call it quits. Since '81 they've broken up and reformed countless times, done reunion tour after reunion tour, and have now made a habit of teetering on washing up onto ol' “credibility beach.” But fortunately for SNFU, they helped introduce Western Canadian kids to punk rock and were a generation-defining band for legions of fans, aided by their surreal anthems about cannibalism, skateboarding, and plastic surgeries gone horribly wrong. The last time I saw SNFU play, frontman Ken “Chi” Pig unloaded three bottles of honey on the crowd before opening up five full bags of puffed wheat and covering the slam pit in a sticky cereal mess. Somehow they've still got it in them every time.

HOT TICKETS • MUST-SEE SHOWS

GRETZ?

KATHLEEN EDWARDS

Starlite Room • May 29
\$25 | Ticketmaster.ca

It's no secret that Kathleen Edwards loves hockey. I mean, nevermind “Hockey Skates”—how many folk-pop-country musicians film music videos with Marty McSorley? Especially for a song where she makes fun of him while comparing him to Gretz? In any case, this Ottawa native's been on fire since 2003's *Feiler*. Joined by blue-eyed Juno nominated crooner Justin Rutledge, the show is bound to be a swingin' Thursday night, even if your fave places didn't make the Best Of Edmonton cutoff list.

RAH!

MARK MURPHY QUARTET

Yardbird Suite • May 30 & 31
\$24 | At Ticketmaster.ca or at the door

When Ella Fitzgerald calls someone her “equal,” you know the guy's gotta bring it. Sure, “legendary” might be a good word to describe New York jazz vocalist Mark Murphy. But it almost seems too easy. The guy's got six Grammy noms under his belt, and swaths of acclaim from the likes of Liza Minnelli, Rex Reed, Ella Herself, and Leonard Feather. Not enticed yet? Murphy will be bringing along pianist Misha Piatigorsky. If you can pronounce his last name first try, maybe the lovely folks at Yardbird will give you a door deal.

GIVE'RI

CPC GANGBANGS

Black Dog • June 2
| No Cover

Remember *FUBAR*? C'mon, you must. The cult-classic Canadian mockumentary about scuzzball headbangers is perfect pre-show fodder for Monday's set at the Black Dog. Especially considering Dean (a.k.a. Paul Spence) is THE frontman of CPC—a fixture on Montreal's garage punk scene. Seriously now, there's plenty more good rock 'n' roll where those mullets came from, and we're pretty sure the hometown boys from Secret Fires will be shotgunning beers in the back. Just to make things interesting.



The Good Old Country Game | It's Kathleen Edwards, in all her Canadian-girl glory. Thursday at Starlite. PHOTO SUPPLIED



MUSIC PREVIEW • WIN ROCK • BY MATT HUBERT 1,500 words

Tales From The Indie 500

WINNIPEG'S THE DETAILS HAVE FAST-TRACKED THEMSELVES TO POP-ROCK GLORY, AND THEY'RE KEEPING THEIR FEET ON THE GAS

THE DETAILS

May 29 (8 pm): Teddy's, 11361 Jasper Ave.

By conventional standards, it usually takes a lot longer than two years for a band to meet, rehearse, record an EP, get signed, record a full-length album, and play one of North America's largest and most noteworthy music festivals. Usually,

another.

"I think now we're starting to feel like we've found a bit more of a groove," says guitarist Sean Vidal. "When we did the album we had only been a band for a little over a year, so that still felt kind of newish—but the record has been out for a year now, so we've had a chance to write some new stuff. We were all familiar with one another, but the four of us had never played together."

When Vidal and fellow guitarist/former bandmate Jon Plett pooled their talents with friends Keli Martin and Shaun Gibson in 2006, they

stop," Vidal admits. "We played our first show and recorded our EP the next weekend, and at that point we were ready for our album. Two months after that we recorded our album. We haven't really stopped touring, and we haven't been without a plan. I don't know that we really want to slow down too much," he laughs, "it's fun to keep going!"

The Details' comet-like ride even propelled them to March's SXSW festival in Austin, alongside acts like My Morning Jacket, Band Of Horses, and Be Your Own Pet, among the hundreds of others. Oddly enough, it was fellow Canadian's who made the experience worthwhile.

"We played on the first night, which was kind of fun, because we had the rest of the week to explore other bands. Ironically enough, we basically only watched Canadian bands that we knew of already so we didn't really discover anything new, but we had a really good time down there."

Despite the warm reception of both *Draw A Distance* and *Draw A Border*, and their performance at SXSW, the band are now turning their attention to keeping the momentum that made the last two years a success. As with any relationship, it's a matter of



It's All In The Itty Bitty Details, My Friends: Pay attention, now. The Details' quick-success story is like a fairy tale for indie-scenesters. PHOTO SUPPLIED.

keeping things exciting.

"We're going to take the summer to write and go back out once or twice in the fall. That's about as far ahead as we're thinking at this point."

"The problem is just finding enough time to actually learn things as a

band because it seems like as soon as we have a few weeks off, we're getting ready for something else—that's kind of frustrating," chuckles Vidal. "We'd like to have more time to practice and learn some new stuff."

THE DETAILS LOOK LESS LIKE YOUR TYPICAL INDIE BAND AND A LOT MORE LIKE THE COUPLE DOWN THE HALL WHO FAST-TRACKED IT TO A LIVE-IN RELATIONSHIP.

Winnipeg pop-rockers The Details have managed to do all of that since 2006, making them look less like your typical Canadian band and a lot more like the couple down the hall who fast-tracked it to a live-in relationship—the exception being that The Details sound less like 3 AM squabbling and more like the Decemberists fronted by a 20-something Robert Smith. And apparently, they're quite content living with one

began rehearsing and rifled off an EP entitled *Marching Sound* (which, as its title suggests, offers a heavier sound than 2007's pared-down full-length *Draw A Distance*. *Draw A Border*.) Since then, the spanking new band has leapt into the rigmarole of working musicians: headlining shows, making TV and radio appearances, and the like.

"I think our motto from the start was that we never really want to



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Janiva Magness

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Cashing In On Shock Value

FROM BURNING PUBES TO TONGUES FOR ASHTRAYS, CABARET PUNKS MINDLESS SELF INDULGENCE PUT ON A FREAK-ASS LIVE SHOW WITH AN "EVOLUTIONARY" PURPOSE

MINDLESS SELF INDULGENCE

w/ The Birthday Massacre and Fake Shark Real Zombie!
June 3 (8 pm), Starlite Room, 10030-102 St. Tickets
\$23.50 at Ticketmaster.ca.

You might think that the glitzy song and dance of golden age Hollywood (à la *Singin' in the Rain*) would serve as antithesis to most punk musicians, rather than inspiration. However, maybe you've never heard Mindless Self Indulgence vocalist/programmer Little Jimmy Urine (a.k.a. James Euringer) rap on the grinding monotony of music today or the true motivations of his infamous onstage degradations.

"We didn't go into this saying 'Let's be musicians,' we went into this saying 'Let's do what we've always wanted to do,'" he says over the phone from San Francisco. "Personally, I'd rather be considered an entertainer like Gene Kelly or Fred Astaire than some typical singing frontman. I like the triple threat of the whole thing:



Oh, They Seem Pretty Sedate Here. But never fear: you could very easily get peed on at the Mindless Self Indulgence show this Tuesday. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

I want to dance, mack, and have a good time. I don't want to stand up there and have people say, 'Oh, he's an amazing vocalist!' This isn't *American Idol* for me, its real entertainment. You have to do something more than just stand there."

For nearly ten years, MSI has been playing heavily collaged punk in a fashion that resembles more of a collaborative installation project than a band. The New York quartet has gained notoriety in the press for releases explicitly forefronting sexuality, music biz politics, and bold cultural commentary, paired with live

performances that can include anything from the burning of pubic hair to the use of tongues for ashtrays.

"Usually, the most memorable moments of a show are when a crowd is not crazy or the fans are not insane. That's usually when I end up going to jail," he reminisces as he tries to summon some of the more standout moments from recent gigs.

"At this point it has become a whole different thing. When kids come to a Mindless show, it's more like a viewing of the *Rocky Horror Picture Show*. They don't just come to watch, they come to participate. They break

the stage barricades; some people come dressed as mascots. Plus, we get such a diverse crowd: you have ravers with glow sticks, metal heads head banging, teenyboppers screaming for [MSI bassist] Lyn-Z. It looks like a bad movie about a high school. Like *The Breakfast Club*."

To Euringer, cultivating their "punktronic" aesthetic had less to do with recent trends in style or recording technology than a natural desire to transcend standard models of music. "I don't know what everyone else is doing because I haven't seen anyone doing anything really good."

He says. "But when we began, everybody was very conservative and we were very bored. We wanted to see a specific type of band do a specific type of thing. So, we decided to invent that band. That was almost ten years ago when things were stagnant."

"Now things are twice as stagnant and nobody wants to take a risk to do anything different. There's no money in music, or in America any more with the recession. So everyone is even more conservative, and it's all about having the same band with the same haircut and the same song, doing the exact same shtick."

Despite the severity of his cynicism and a lack of faith in the music industry, Little Jimmy Urine has hope that evolution will work its magic.

"[The current industry is] going to change into something else," Euringer says confidently. "There is going to be a whole new way of doing things, like when the tape or the record player was invented. The whole landscape changed when that happened, I like evolution. I like seeing what's going to prevail."

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Karen Thiessen From Dadeo,
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what Edmonton likes
best about Edmonton

BEST OF EDMONTON

Everybody's Got One

OPINIONS, THAT IS: BEFORE WE SHARE THE RESULT OF OUR READERS' POLL, WE WANTED TO GET A WORD IN EDGEWISE. BEHOLD OUR CRITICS' PICKS

Best River Valley Stairs to Have Your Ass Kicked On Royal Glenora Club Stairs

No, not "ass kicked" in the Whyte Ave bar let-out-hour sense: in the personal-trainer-whipping-you-into-shape sense. Does that make sense? Anyway, these stairs will absolutely kick your ass. And your thighs. And your calf muscles. The ass kicking part is supposed to be "good," at least that's what my personal trainer says. You start out on these 170 some-odd stairs at the base of the dirt lot outside the Royal Glenora Club feeling pretty stoked, confident. But by the time you're halfway up you think it's never going to end, that you might die falling back down the stairs and cracking your face open when your calves eventually fall off. If you keep breathing, you get to the top, turn around, and feel the exquisite glory

of the valley in fine view while fending off hyperventilation. It's about as natural a "high" as you can get.

Best Place to Buy Hummus and a Hookah

El Safadi Bros on 134 Ave

This northside grocery/gift shop (weird, yes, but it works) holds all the Mediterranean and middle-eastern foodstuffs your heart could possibly desire—and it's all CHEAP like borscht. Between rows crammed with tahini and imported spice mixes, there's the huge tanks of feta floating in brine beside a deli case of exotic cheeses, crates of olive oil stacked in every aisle, a wall of fresh pita from Sunbake Pita Bakery (which is just a few blocks down the Avenue), tubs of olives, and a loft upstairs of Eastern giftware. Here, not only can you find a hookah for significantly cheaper than you would in the pot shops, you can pick up the hoses, bowls, and accessories to go with—and they're not all painted with day-glo shrooms and crap.

Best Grocery for Exotic Produce

Fruiticana

So it's the middle of December and you desperately need a fresh guava. So, what do you do? Get yourself to Fruiticana (9324-34 Ave) where they have them in abundance year round, not to mention mangoes, passion fruits, and papayas too. For the adventurous chef, they also provide all manner of hard-to-find veggies, like okra and karela (bitter squash), as well as fresh tamarind. Exotic treats on offer include spicy Indian "Thumbs Up" cola, sugar cane, attractively packaged sweets, budget price "Bollywood" DVDs, and endless episodes of some pretty addictive South East Asian television series, both for rent, and for sale.

Best Place to Shop Like You're in Harajuku, Tokyo

360 Degree Inc. on 109 St.

Those gothy little "Harajuku Girls" Gwen Stefani totes around like Yorkie Poos have got somethin' goin on, at least in terms of where

they get all their wares. One of the best shopping streets in the world is Takeshita Street in the Harajuku district of Tokyo. You could say it's a little Whyte Ave-ish, with all the emo kids and greaser wannabes, but it's essentially a cheap shopping hub for Japanese hipsters. The only store I've found even close to it here is 360 Degree Inc. The owner brings in everything from Asia—and, cleverly, just a couple pieces each—and turns it all around at insanely good prices (you can't beat knee high faux suede boots for \$69). Pretty dresses, sporty jackets, big big handbags, hot boots—the whole place reeks of cute and sexy Harajuku.

Best Source Of Cheap Books

Book Cellar

I love me some used book stores, but the Book Cellar in HUB Mall undercuts them all with unread fiction and non-fiction titles remaindered by the University of Alberta bookstore. My most recent finds: Marisha Pessl's acclaimed coming-of-age firebrick *Special Topics in Calamity Physics* (\$3.99) and Vikram Chandra's epic Mumbai-set crime epic *Sacred Games* (\$4.99)—less a further 25 per cent lopped off at the till. I've lost entire afternoons there browsing and poaching recipes from the cookbooks section while CKUA wafted amiably in the background. And I almost never leave empty-handed.

Best Bench to Pretend You're in a '50s Movie Scene at Makeout Point

Edge of Ezio Faraone Park

After dusk, when the joggers and drum-circle hippies have retired, this bench (this whole little park, really) becomes the ultimate classic spot for old-fashioned neckin'—or just a super-cheesy romantic place for snuggling, if you prefer. It's at the edge of 110 Street overlooking the High Level and the valley, and if you get there as the sun is going down you can hit that ultimate cliché sunset moment—where everything is pink and purple and beautiful, and if the light hits 'em just right, maybe you'll be able to tell if the person you're there with is The One. Or not. Super cheeseball? Yes, but if that light trick works, you know, you could save yourself a whole lotta time in the singles pool.

Best Kim Chi Fix

The Korean Booth at the Old Strathcona Farmer's Market

Who doesn't love that spicy pickled cabbage? It's good for your tummy, it smells like feet, and you can put it on absolutely everything—eggs, potatoes, toast. Yum. It's even good

for hangovers. The best place to get the homemade real deal is from this family at the market—their booth is on the West side of the building, somewhere after the Hutterites and all those pickles, but before the Dip Sea Chicks. This particular kim chi is super-sour, and not as spicy as the stuff you might get from a commercial jar in Chinatown. \$5 for a small jar, \$10 for a jumbo. And the lovely kim chi man gives you a tasty fried egg-roll thingy with every purchase. He'll even give one to your friend who didn't buy anything. And he's always smiling. Every time.

Best Sweet Potato Fries

Dadeo

Dadeo excels at most things on its menu of Cajun cooking, but it's their mythic sweet potato fries that are the foundation of the New Orleans-style diner. The carefully selected potatoes are coated to the tipping point of crunchiness, and are the best kind of spicy—the kind that results when you use actual spices instead of chemicals. They're so good that my mother, who can't digest the flour they use to coat the potatoes because of Celiac disease, breaks her non-gluten diet to indulge herself.

Best Place To Get A Baguette

Tree Stone Bakery (8612-99 St.)

White bread bad. Butter bad. Tree Stone baguette good. Very, very good. With butter. Baguettes are available everywhere, and they are easily avoidable because their taste is ubiquitous as well. But Tree Stone baguettes are unlike any tubular white bread product you've ever tasted, or smelled, or torn into mouth watering hunks. It must be that they are made the "old" or "traditional" way, because they taste so different, or should I say, they have a taste, but I don't really know how they're made, other than by hand, in the back of the bakery, with a lot of care.

Best Place to Experience Chaos Theory in Action

Traffic circle at 118th Avenue, 101 Street, and Princess Elizabeth

Around 5:00 pm each weekday, work-weary drivers turn the traffic circle at 118 Avenue, 101 Street and Princess Elizabeth into a honking, seething model of chaos theory. Lanes appear and disappear at random. Every time a butterfly flaps its wings in Tibet, another car tries to go sideways across three lanes of six-wheeled pickups. As with weather forecasting, though broad patterns can be predicted for the future, it's difficult to know what will happen on any given day. Bring sunscreen and an umbrella.



photo: Hanson Ng

Thank You!

EDMONTON'S #1 NEWS

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Sond Steinke

Photo: [illegible]

Best High Fashion Reworking of a Local Favourite

The Sideways Mullet

Like Edmonton itself, the traditional mullet projects the clean-cut face of business, but always keeps some hair down in case a party breaks out. The new sideways mullet can now be seen on Edmontonians across the city, putting the party up front and making business a side issue. True, you can't see where you're going, but, with all the construction in town, you can't get where you're going anyway. It's better to just stay home and bask in the knowledge that you've updated a classic for the 21st Century.

Best Place to Tell Your Friends That Something is Crawling on Their Backs

The Bug Room

Black widows, scorpions, giant hissing cockroaches, and your most squeamish friends. That's entertainment. The live exhibits in the Bug Room at the Royal Alberta Museum freak out the nervous even when locked in their enclosures. Bug Room staff members up the ante by introducing the residents to guests. Wanna hold a tarantula? Wanna pet a scorpion? Wanna watch your boyfriend scream and run for the parking lot? Admission is cheap, especially on weekend mornings, and the mockery can last for years.

Best Example of Self-Awareness in the Creepy

The Free Candy Van

This ancient cargo van with bright yellow paint and covered windows is usually parked somewhere in Norwood, tilted so far to the right that a

strong breeze might tip it onto the sidewalk. Black spray-painted letters on one side announce that the van's driver offers FREE CANDY to neighbourhood kids. Whether the owner painted the van himself or whether it was commentary by a local artist, the fact that it has never been painted over suggests that somebody knows he has one disturbing ride.

Most (or Least) Likely to be Cast in a Lou Grant Revival Series:

Powermann

Edmonton comedian and contortionist Powermann recently appeared on Jay Leno's Tonight Show as a contestant in the Does It Impress Ed Asner segment, where performers vie for the approval of the notoriously grumpy Mr. Asner. The 450-pound Powermann successfully squeezed

his entire body through a child's hula hoop. Was Ed Asner impressed? You bet he was. Was he accidentally injured? You bet he was. Powermann showed us all what to say after knee-capping a beloved American icon with a flying hula hoop: "I'm sorry, sir."

Best Busker

Ernie Gambler

Hear that high lonesome sound, a keening voice, and acoustic strum amplified and carried by the natural reverb of the Bay LRT station, that calls to mind the piercing, pure croon of country's only king, Hank Williams the First? Those would be the marvelous vocal stylings of Ernie Gambler, a longtime fixture of Edmonton's busking scene who treats underground commuters to gospel originals and country classics

accompanied by his acoustic guitar many a weekday.

Best Local Eccentric

Mr. Thong

It seems like a lot of Edmonton's unselfconscious oddballs have taken themselves out of circulation—where art thou, Mr. Sunglasses-at-Night, obviously piloting your 10-speed at a crawl through Edmonton's most dangerous traffic? Whither Captain Canada, dressed entirely in flags and bearing placards covered in illegible hand-inked thousand-word screeds? And what of the scowling, hyper-religious couple who once daily berated passers-by on God's behalf near the Milner Library? Luckily we can still count on Mr. Thong, the Frank Zappa lookalike in the Gilligan hat and Olivia Newton John unitard oft spotted smuggling his hot dog and buns

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around downtown, for a touch of local colour. Long may your freak-flag fly, FZ.

Best Non-commissioned Public Art

High Level Bridge eyes

The pair of eyes on one of the High Level Bridge's concrete stanchions, visible from the LRT or River Valley Road. Some anonymous Modigliani waded out into the North Saskatchewan to paint that little masterpiece, a patch of vivid colour from which cool wide eyes seem to follow you as you ride past on rail or bike trail. Runner-up: at various locations around the city, a black-paint stencil of a face contorted with effort, bearing the legend "Eat More Fibre."

Best Bar Star Bathroom

Ladies' Room at Oil City Road-house

I know. I know. I don't even want to admit that I've been there. Even if it was just the one time. Damn you, little bro and your 20th birthday. But honestly, this pisser is The Shit. Usually ladies' rooms in bars are cramped, sticky, dark holes floating in an inch of soggy paper and spilled drinks. But this one is spacious, stadium-style (fits the country bar theme, I s'pose) with long rows of stalls, padded benches for crying/passing out on, wide open space with airdryers to dry your disgusting too-short-shorts, and a full service BAR in the corner. With drink specials. Only for ladies. (I hear the guy's pisser is just a hole in the floor on the other side of the wall.) If there's a sure way to keep the cowboys in the bar and spending money, it's keeping them ladies nice 'n' tanked.

Best Place to be Menaced by Strangers in Broad Daylight

The switchback trail going down to the river just east of the Shaw Conference Centre

Whether it's "why don't you take a picture, it'll last longer," or a just slurred "fuck off," you can always count on someone or several someones to offer you pointed advice on what you should be looking at, where you should be going, and what will happen to you if you don't move on quickly. And a good day to you too, gentlemen.

Best Place to Think About the Past

Laurence Decore Lookout

Along the river's south bank from the High Level Bridge to 103 Street, the lookout allows for some of the most classic, iconic views of the city the Legislature Grounds, the High Level Bridge, the Hotel MacDonald, which, when combined with the peacefulness and greenery of the path, push for some powerful reminiscing. Think about your own life or think about the Lookout's namesake, the former Edmonton mayor who in the 1993 provincial election led the Liberals to 32 of 83 seats in the legislature. When his party didn't think

that was good enough, he resigned as leader.

Best Playground Feature

W.C. (Tubby) Bateman Park

As playgrounds go, W.C. (Tubby) Bateman Park is okay. It's not really huge or cutting edge, but it's got a picturesque setting and nice enough equipment to keep the kids happy, you suppose. But hey, what's that over there? A sand-filled circle, with big stones for climbing on and leaping to and from around the perimeter? And, in the center, a bison sculpture carved from red granite with a polished hole in its center? It's intriguing! No, it's distinctive! Really, it's both, and it's also a must-have shot for any dotting parent who craves cute photos of their children.

Best Free-Admission, Semi-Permanent Sculpture Exhibit

U of A Statue Garden

A little gathering of sculptures, Stonehengeian in their mystery—Who made them? How did they get here?—nestled between the Fine Arts Building and the Law Library on the University of Alberta campus. It doesn't matter if you're a university student on the lookout for a novel and cheap date, somebody who just can't get enough of the artistic reinterpretation of scrap metal, or semi-rich and looking for a lil' objet d'art for your garden or front entryway. If there's any way that you could imagine yourself in the market for something interesting to look at, this is for you.

Best City Property to Plow Under and Turn Into a Community Garden

Tie: That big mutha of a parking lot around the Strathcona Armoury, and the Northlands Coliseum.

There's something downright redemptive about a community garden. Of course, there's all that business about neighbourliness and hope and planning and work and learning moments and the cycle of life and the provision of nourishment to anyone with the wherewithal to tend their plot. But, if in the process you can reclaim and reform a place that was previously a nuisance to its neighbourhood, or make a clean break with the past, with a clear eye to the future, then that's even better, friend.

Best Idea Whose Time Came and, Apparently, Went

Cow Lift 2000

The sun-faded Cow Lift 2000 sign on an abandoned building near Alberta Avenue provokes many questions. Was the cow-lifting device really magenta, as shown in the cartoonish sign? Didn't those metal bars feel cold next to the cows' lady lumps? And what happened if you used Cow Lift 2000 on a bull? Did the sign makers use a drawing, not a photo, because the real cows looked

too angry? After a heady year of success, was Cow Lift 2000 replaced by the space-age Cow Lift 2001? Sadly, this Edmonton business has vanished, and so we will never know.

Most Uplifting Protest

ECAWAR 2008 Iraq Protest

On the weekend of the fifth Iraq war protest, the snow was dirty and heavy on the downtown streets, and all I wanted was a greasy burger and fries. Cold and wet and running from different events on an empty stomach, I was generally grumpy at the world and in no mood to contemplate the continued violence overseas. But there was a real sense of community as we walked up Jasper from the legislature grounds and sang in Churchill Square. Sure, behind the scenes, activist-volunteers may be feeling burnt-out after so many years of ac-

tions, but on the square they looked as uplifted as I felt. When Athabasca University prof Tony Sinmons said: "We are here to explode the myth that the war in Iraq is the bad war and the war in Afghanistan is the good war," I was glad I fed my spirit instead of my stomach.

Best Trip Down Memory Lane

#3 Bus Route

The #3 bus route is the best route in the whole ETS system. Well, for me anyway. The 25 year old buses that routinely travel this route remind me of my Mom and the many childhood trips we took on similarly bright orange padded bench seats, behind large curved windows that actually open. And the long lag down 107th Avenue never fails to delight with changing restaurants and reminders that indeed Edmonton isn't as

mono-cultured as I think it is, and reminding me of all the tasty little food-joints I left behind in a series of moves. Finally, Route 3 reminds me that Edmonton once had brave architecture, even if that reminder is now only a hole in the ground and a condo sign where the Tabernacle church used to sit.

Best Public Space To Hold A Party

LRT Bay Station

Bay Station's immaculate surfaces make me think of secret underground bomb shelters built for the über-rich in bizarre cold-war era novels, and sometimes I have to stop myself from looking for the gold plated bathroom faucets and 1950s soap products. While I vastly prefer that daydream to wondering how rats avoid getting run over by trains



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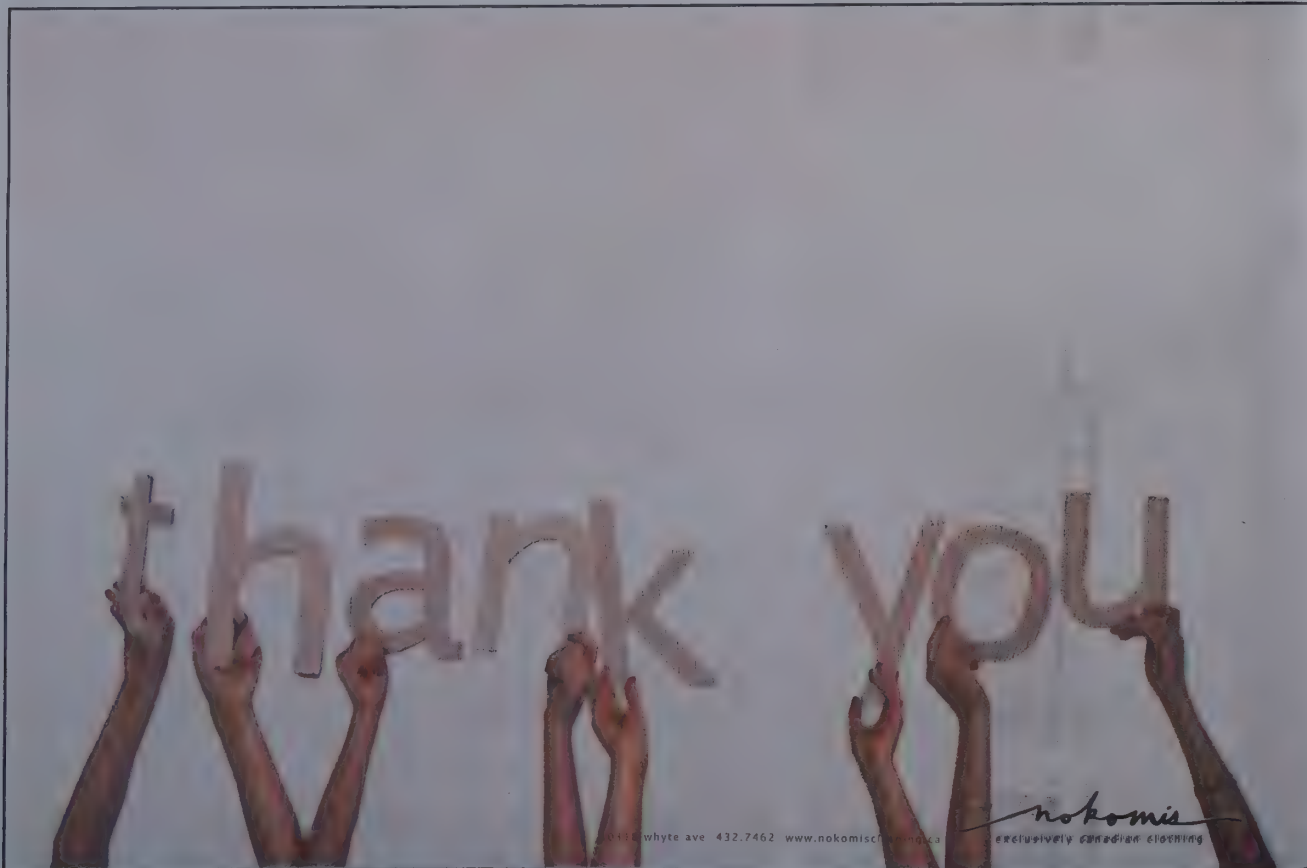
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MOST SENSITIVE ARCHITECTURAL PROJECT • JASPER AVENUE SOBEY'S



PHOTO BY IAN JACKSON

We're quick to bitch about ugly buildings, so when a company makes some sort of effort to consider how their new building will affect the streetscape, we have to pat them on the back. Quite apart from bringing a welcome change to downtown's food horizon, the new Sobeys on Jasper and 104 Street charmingly echoes the Birks Building across the street (which was built in 1930—for \$350,000!). Sobeys could just have easily followed in the footsteps of Whyte Avenue's decline into charmlessness, but they seem to get, in this instance at least, that the environment is part of the experience. Even if the salad bar is a little pricey. (Hint: Choose the small box, and opt for plenty of leafy greens.)




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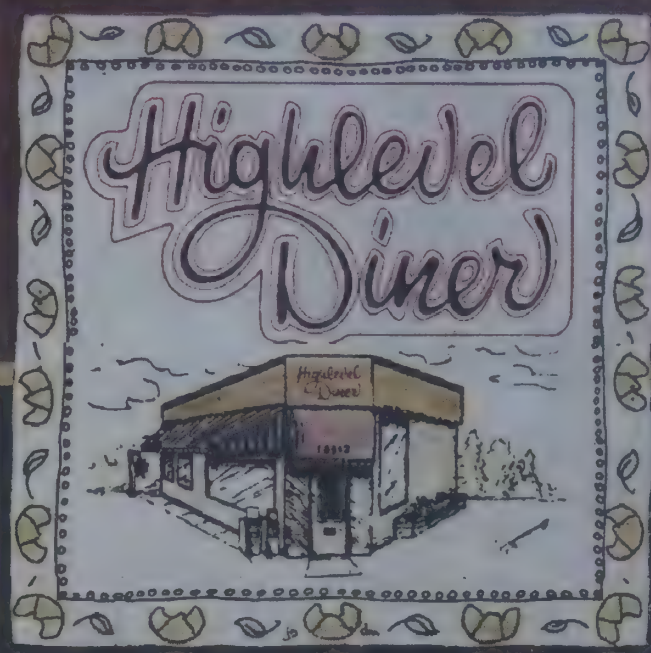
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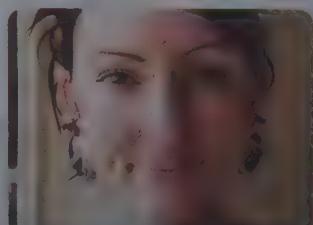
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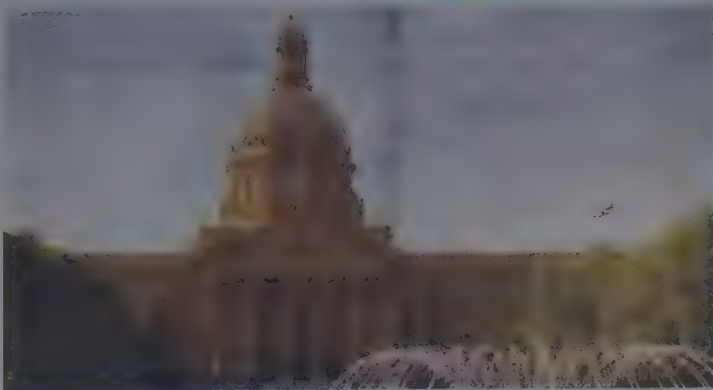


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BEST PLACE TO SPEND LUNCH HOUR IN THE SUMMER • THE LEGISLATURE GROUNDS



OK, I know how cheesy this is, but I have to say that the best way to spend a summer lunch hour downtown is at the legislature grounds, especially during a protest. There's something about the combination of activists yelling at the dome while tourists feign wide-toothed smiles, giggles of giggling kids splash in the fountains, and office workers take off their shoes and nibble on Wonderbread sandwiches. It makes me feel peaceful.

in the Toronto subway, it is a shame that station doesn't see more use. Bay Station is a lovely public space. Hey, wouldn't it make a great place for a party? I can imagine heated debates on current events erupting from the benches, funky high-heel shoes working up a sweat on those shiny tiles and music filling the vast tunnel... Somehow I don't think ETS

will approve.

Most Under-appreciated Apartment Building 12607-118th Ave.

My apartment building sits on the edge of Inglewood and the provincial riding of Edmonton-Glenora. It's not the "high risk" neighbourhood east down 118th that gets all the atten-

tion from City Hall, nor is it nestled among the heritage homes of Glenora. Indeed, it's an awkward little building that no one seems to love except its residents. It's one of many on that strip between 125 Street and 127 Street, it's only three stories tall and no one won any design awards for it, so I'll forgive if you don't remember it. But I will not forgive any unin-

formed abuse of its reputation just because it sits on a street with such a bad rep. The people who live here are kind and generous. They voluntarily plant flowers in our backyard, take their shoes off at the building door, and help the weak carry their groceries up the stairs.

Best Park That Isn't a Park University of Alberta Campus

If students weren't such suckers, they wouldn't have to go to school. Honestly. They show up on campus in the fall, shelling out a ton of fees... which help pay for nice koi ponds and what have you. Then, in the spring, just as the weather warms, they pack up their laptops and scurry away, leaving behind a little urban oasis right in the middle of the city, with beautiful tree-lined walks, the aforementioned gurgling water features, some of the city's few remaining heritage buildings, and peaceful grassy areas, which hardworking summer session students, stunned when they suddenly emerge into sunshine, are too dazed to enjoy. Pack a picnic basket... and take a book!

Best Sign That Print Journalism Is Alive and Well Street Box Explosion

Phew! People keep telling us that print is dead, but if print is dead, why would the nation's supersmart

and highly uncynical media barons continue to rush to the curbside with newspapers? The arrival of the latest recruit, the fusty, lower-middlebrow Edmonton Examiner, brings to ten the number of publications jockeying for space on every downtown street-corner, including everything from august national dailies to advertising mini-billboards leavened with news filler. With three streetrags each, CanWest (the Journal, the National Post, and Rush Hour) and SunMedia (the Sun, 24 Hours, and now the Examiner) have clearly decided to keep issuing new publications until one of them clicks.

Best Stretch of Roadway for De-stressing River Valley Road

If you absolutely have to drive to work, try to incorporate this harrowing highway, this free-wheeling freeway, this... er... righteous road into your trip to and from work. (It's out of your way? Are you kidding? As if! You live in the West End even though you work downtown—don't start whining about an extra few minutes.) Linking the mighty Groat Road / Victoria Park Road nexus with the critical Walterdale Bridge / Rosedale Road / 105 St. interchange, River Valley Road is a lovely tree-lined thoroughfare that won't oblige you to make many decisions ("Do I need fruit?" may be the exception that proves the rule). It won't tame your larger neuroses, but it'll give you an emotional spit shine, whether you're travelling by car, by foot, or by blade. Urban space the way it was meant to be.

Clearer Omen of the Impending Apocalypse Gas Prices

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BEST PLACE TO DISCOVER A GEM • **SUB BOOKSTORE**

PHOTO BY JOHN ULAN

Ignore the backpacks and textbooks, there's an awesome 'independent' bookstore within the walls of an otherwise unremarkable, academic space. There are no pesky salespeople on commission, and you have to walk out of the store (but not far) to hear an espresso machine, but the

atmosphere, especially in the summer, is refreshingly conducive to a nice, long browse. A recent example: a book on the art of insect illustration and a novel about a rat that reads (literally devours) literature and befriends a science fiction writer... who knew I needed those? But apparently, I did.

I have a theory that books find us, not the other way around, and the thoughtful, surprising and diverse titles in this bookstore have a way of finding me, or rather, my debit card, wherever I wander in this many-corned, many-shelved basement oasis.

YOU MAKE OUR HEARTS GROW!



your a future of saying "So?" Gas at a dollar thirty? So? Let's think big! A buck fifty, say. Two bucks. What about when gas is two dollars and fifty cents a litre? Will we then be fully able to enjoy the fact that we got rid of our neighbourhood grocery stores? That we closed off roads and opted for cul de sacs in a bid to stop "shortcutting" (aka: going from Point A to Point B)? That our infra-

structure is totally out of synch with a world of expensive fuel? Because we'll spare no expense to make sure the hippies know we don't give a god-damn about what they think.

Best Music Blog AM 180

The problem with blogs is that for every 50 that are started, only five will ever live longer than three

posts—it's just the nature of the medium. Thomas Odumade has been blogging about music old, new, and under the radar for nearly two years now; AM 180 has a decidedly indie leaning, but Odumade dips his feet into all genres including hip-hop and soul, and the MP3s of his frequent updates are accompanied by insightful commentary. His compilation of just under 100 (!) Nina Simone vid-

eos in a March post is an invaluable resource and puts many professional bloggers to shame. rockitforme.blogspot.com

Best Annual Hip-Hop Event Hip-Hop For Hunger

An urban community has existed in Edmonton for a long time now; it's just the organized events that celebrate said scene that have lagged behind. Five years ago, Marlon Wilson (of the local rap group Politic Live) and some friends decided to put on a show that would both expose home-grown talent and collect food supplies for those less fortunate during the holidays. And it looks like Hip-Hop for Hunger will be a staple in the city for years to come—acts have actually had to be turned away in recent years as simply too many want to join the festivities.

Best Approximation of the World's Biggest Sporting Event Mini World Cup of Soccer

Most soccer fans never get a chance to attend a World Cup game, that is

unless it's a match at the Mini World Cup that takes place every spring on the indoor fields in Edmonton. Every two years, local players, including both amateurs and players who have played professional soccer, including Nicola Vignjevic of the recently reinstated Edmonton Drillers, represent their nations in a much smaller version of the world's biggest sporting event. But it might as well be the real thing: the atmosphere is electric and even the hooliganism rears its bloody head, as fights have been known to break out after matches.

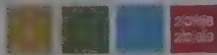
Best Local Actor Who Should Be a Big Star But Isn't For Some Reason

Nathan Fillion

Anyone who has seen the short-lived Joss Whedon series *Firefly* (and if you haven't, what's wrong with you?) already knows about Nathan Fillion, although this admittedly is not a lot of people. Now add to the list anyone who has kept up with *Desperate Housewives*, which is a shitload of people, because they too now know

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BEST PLACE TO PET A DOG (IF YOU DON'T WON ONE)

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I walk for fitness. I walk to feel the sun on my face and see the snow fall on pine boughs. I walk to hear the creeks babble and the robins sing. I walk to get to the places I need to go. And I walk so that I can pet your dog. Some dogs pass me by, and some dogs look like they'd like to remove my femoral artery through my face (poodles... I'm talking to you), but then there are the dogs that see my welcoming, outstretched hand and start wagging their tails. And so I fondle. And I pet. And I scratch. And I say 'good doggie.' It's always a brief interlude, but I am grateful for it, and my cat doesn't seem to mind when I come home smelling of Weimaraner. So as long as I am condemned to be a dog-less walker, I will be petting your dog. I hope you don't mind.

who the Edmonton actor is, after he joined the cast this past season. He probably won't ever carry a blockbuster film, but he has been voted one of the 50 actors *Entertainment Weekly* would watch in anything, which has to count for something.

Best Video Game Developer

BioWare

Alright, so BioWare wins by default, being the only (world-class) video game developer in town, but even if it wasn't, it would still probably take the top spot. And yes, *Mass Effect* is kind of shallow and buggy and ultimately overrated, but it also did a lot of things right, and that should not be overlooked. In just six weeks the game pushed over 1.6 million copies, and remains one of the Xbox 360's must-own titles. EA Sports bought BioWare last fall for a sum in the neighbourhood of \$800 million—that says it all.

Best Place to Chance of Getting Mowed Over by RV-sized baby strollers

Strathcona Farmers' Market

It's admirable that you want to share the experience of Whyte Avenue with your adorable children. Many do, at least during the murder-free daylight hours, but do ya have to bring Baby's First Hummer to the Strathcona market when all of humanity, or parts thereof, converge on a Saturday to shop for their peppers and pies? These 'vehicles' are like a suite on wheels, and I know it's only a matter of time before my sandaled toes and my plate of green onion cakes are sacrificed for the comfort of little Ethan's pampered behind. On the other hand, they sure can hold a lot of organic chicken.

Best Place to See Thousands of Green Worms Hanging from Trees

Rosssdale, but only in June

You know the movie *Dune*? Not a great film for a variety of reasons, but in late May, early June, when I'm walking through Rosssdale, I think of Jürgen Prochnow, as Duke Leto Atreides, scanning the sand dunes for killer worms and saying, "Worm-sign! Is that worm-sign?" Of course, he's German so it's more like "verm-sein," but each year in late Spring I do the same thing. It starts with one or two tiny green worms hanging from the trees that canopy the otherwise beautiful path that runs along the North Saskatchewan toward the Low Level Bridge. Next day, a few more, and then there are hundreds, thousands dropping from the trees, hanging from vile strings like some devilish party decoration. They are actually a type of caterpillar that infest ash trees but as far as I can tell, they are not that selective. In the sunlight, they appear to be hanging from every tree and bush along the path, and only a Level-5 contamination suit with helmet could get me to walk through there in June.

Best Fountain

Water-spouting Godzilla in a garden near 99 St. & 89 Ave.

I know generally when the seasons begin and end, but ever since Godzilla moved into the neighbourhood, I know exactly when Autumn has arrived because Godzilla is plucked out of his terracotta pot and taken indoors, no doubt to spend the winter dreaming his megalomaniacal dreams in the bosom of his family. And then, after a long, cold winter there is nothing, nothing more cheering than seeing Godzilla returned to his station in the flower pot, once again spouting water (in a menacing way), his red eyes fiery, his scaly knees breaching the water, as if he is about to step out of his pot and terrorize unsuspecting ants.

Best Place to See Dragonflies

Gravel corridor between Kinsmen and Emily Murphy Park

It's a short, unpaved path leading to the trail along the the North Saskatchewan that winds toward Emily Murphy Park, and during mid to late summer the air above is crisscrossed with shimmering streaks of blue. They are dragonflies. Or maybe damselflies... I'm not sure what the difference is, but as they're huge and decidedly undamsel-like—I will call them dragonflies. Big and blue and in such impressive numbers, if they were any other kind of insect, they would probably make me scream like a six year old. But dragonflies are beautiful, and they eat mosquitoes, and on a muggy morning in summer, they seem like my personal guardians, clearing the path of pests, accompanying me, at least for awhile, on my journey.

Place To Hear

Thumping Rap Music At Skull! Rattling Volumes

Out my fucking window every fucking summer night when my fucking neighbour drives home in his fucking Cadillac Escalade-fucking-lade

Dear neighbour. You are my neighbour, and you are the neighbour of everyone in my building and everyone on the street, and everyone in Calgary who can surely hear your music as well. I'm not a music snob, but just for the sake of argument, let's consider one of my personal favourites: Mark Knopfler. His songs just don't thump, no matter how loud I play them, and I'd have to check, but I'm pretty sure motherfucker has yet to make its debut in any of His lyrics. So while I secretly may judge you for not loving Mark Knopfler as I do, I do not force you to listen to His music whenever I feel like taking Him for a spin in my Honda Civ-fucking-ic. But be warned: Abba thumps, especially the disco stuff, so when you're least expecting it I will return your many favours with a little Swedish rap. I will, I will, I will, I will...



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BEST OF EDMONTON • READERS' PICKS

HERE'S WHAT YOU THINK



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Best Morning Radio Show

- 1 The Garner Andrews Show
- 2 The Paul Brown Show
- 3 The Pepper And Dylan Show

Best Radio Personality

- 1 Garner Andrews
- 2 Yukon Jack
- 3 Rick Lee

Best TV Weather person

- 1 Josh Classen
- 2 Nicola Crosbie
- 3 Mike Sobel

Best TV News Anchor

- 1 Lynda Steele
- 2 Gord Steinke
- 2 Carrie Doll

Best Local TV Station

- 1 Global
- 2 CityTV
- 3 CTV

Best Local Radio Station

- 1 Sonic
- 2 CJSR
- 3 The Bear

Best Cultural Institution

- 1 Francis Winspear Centre For Music
- 2 Alberta Art Gallery
- 3 Royal Alberta Museum

Best Use of Taxpayers Money

- 1 LRT
- 2 Fixing roads
- 3 Health Care

Best Local Politician

- 1 Steven Mandel
- 2 Don Iveson
- 3 Rachel Notley

Best Local Website

- 1 www.edmonton.ca
- 2 www.takeets.com
- 3 www.seemagazine.com

Favorite Edmontonian

- 1 Michael Phair
- 2 Stan Milner
- 3 Daryl Katz

Best Local Athlete

- 1 Fernando Pisani
- 2 Alex Steele
- 3 Tyler Christopher

Best Local Music Act

- 1 Cadence Weapon
- 2 Corb Lund
- 3 10 Second Epic/Tupelo Honey

Most Creative Edmontonian

- 1 Cadence Weapon
- 2 Ashley Andel / Don Iveson / Nick Kozub
- 3 Stewart Lemoine

Best New Trend

- 1 Going green
- 2 Mini skirts
- 3 LRT expansion

Worst New Trend

- 1 Crocs
- 2 Skinny jeans
- 3 Over-sized sunglasses

Scariest Intersection

- 123 Avenue & Calgary Trail
- 2 Stony Plain Road & 170 Street
- 3 118 Avenue & 97 Street

Best Place to People Watch

- 1 Whyte Avenue
- 2 West Edmonton Mall
- 3 Downtown

BEST USE OF TAXPAYERS' MONEY • LRT/TRANSIT



Really? You like investment in public transportation? Not a dome over Churchill Square? Are you sure? Because you can still change your minds. Think about it: a nice new dome... right downtown. Oh fine, you ingrates. Have your stupid transit system. But hold on hold on... you know, if we spent less on public transportation, you'd have a better excuse to drive to work alone in your car. Wouldn't that be nice? It would leave you plenty of time to think about our beautiful new dome...

Best Place to Take a Visitor

- 1 Whyte Avenue
- 2 West Edmonton Mall
- 3 River Valley

Best Green Space

- 1 River Valley
- 2 Hawrelak Park
- 3 Legislature Grounds

Sexiest Male

- 1 Craig MacTavish
- 2 John Ulyatt
- 3 Josh Classen

Sexiest Female

- 1 Jenny Adams
- 2 Carrie Doll
- 3 Nicola Crosbie

GETTING OUT**Best Dance Club**

- 1 Halo 10538 Jasper Ave.
- 2 Blues on Whyte 10329-82 Ave.

3 New City Suburbs 10081 Jasper Ave.**Best Live Venue**

- 1 Starlite Room 10030-102 St.
- 2 Blues on Whyte 10329-82 Ave.
- 3 Pawn Shop 10549-82 Ave.

Best Bar

- 1 The Black Dog 10425-82 Ave.
- 2 Empress Ale House 9912-82 Ave.
- 3 Hudson's Taphouse Several Locations

Best Neighborhood Pub

- 1 The Black Dog 10425-82 Ave.
- 2 Empress Ale House 9912-82 Ave.
- 3 Sherlock Holmes Several Locations

Best Gay Bar

- 1 Buddy's 11725B Jasper Ave.
- 2 The Roost (closed)

Best Comedy Club

- 1 Comic Strip 1646 8882-170 St. (WEM)
- 2 Laugh Shop 1105 6606-137 Ave.
- 3 Comedy Factory 3414 Gateway Blvd

Best Karaoke Club

- 1 Rosario's 11715C-108 Ave.

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Level 1 ashtanga 10am-11pm	Level 1 ashtanga 10am-11pm	Satva 8-10pm	Yin Yoga 8-10pm	Parent + baby yoga 10am-11:30am drop-in welcome	Level 1 ashtanga 10am-11:30am	Level 1 ashtanga 11:30am-12pm
Meditation 12-1pm	Restore ashtanga 12-1pm	Level 2 ashtanga 12-1pm	Level 1-2 ashtanga 12-1pm	Parent + baby yoga 10am-11:30am drop-in welcome	Ashtanga Drum 12-1pm	Yin Yoga 12-1pm
	registered intro-2 10am-11:30am	registered intro-1 10am-11:30am	registered intro-1 10am-11:30am	Level 1 ashtanga 10am-11:30am		Intro ashtanga 10am-11:30am

* Bring this advertisement in for 1 free class. Limited to 1 per customer. Expires July 31, 2008.

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BEST DELI • ITALIAN CENTRE NORTH



The test of a true deli, as far as we're concerned, is that you should see things you don't recognize in the display case. "Yes, it definitely looks like some sort of cheese," we'll often say to ourselves of an afternoon stroll through the Italian Center, "but I wonder what kind of cheese it is." Fortunately, the friendly folks at the Italian Centre are altogether ready to entertain your ignorance of various exotic cheeses and meats, and for us, that's the other sign of that vanishing institution, the true old-school deli.

2 Hooliganz 10704-124 St.
3 B Street 11818-111 Ave.

Best Place to Shoot Pool

1 Billiard Club 10505-82 Ave.
2 Shanks 9927-178 St.
3 Metro Billiards 10250-106 St.

Best Gym

1 Club Fit Several Locations
2 YMCA Downtown 10211-102 Ave.
3 World Health Club Several Locations

Best Place to Get Ramen

1 Swizzlesticks 11104-82 Ave.
2 Evelyn Charles Several Locations
3 Perugia 8211-104 St.

Best Internet Café

1 Café Dabar 10816-82 Ave.
2 Naked on Jasper 10354 Jasper Ave.
3 Remedy 8631-109 St.

Best Yoga Studio

1 The Yoga Loft 10309-82 Ave.
2 Shanti Yoga 10026-102 St.
3 Lion's Breath 10350-124 St.

Best Place to Skateboard

1 Avenue Skatepark 9030-118 Ave.
2 Millwoods Recreation Centre 7207-28 Ave.
3 Whyte Avenue

Best Place to Pick Someone Up

1 Whyte Avenue
2 The Ranch 6111-104 St.
3 The Black Dog 10425-82 Ave.

Swankiest bathroom

1 Joey Tomatoes Several Locations
2 Ric's Grill 14229-23 Ave.
3 Earls Several Locations

Skankiest bathroom

1 Purple Onion 8032-104 St.
2 The Black Dog 10425-82 Ave.
3 Filthy McNasty's 10511A-82 Ave.

Best Art Gallery

1 Edmonton Art Gallery #100, 10230 Jasper Ave.
2 Latitude 53 10248-106 St.
3 FAB Gallery (U of A) 1-1 Fine Arts Building, University of a Campus

Best Live Theatre

1 Varscona 10329-83 Ave.
2 Citadel 9828-101A Ave.
3 Roxy 10708-124 St.

Best Golf Course

1 Victoria 12130 River Rd.
2 Millwoods 4540 50th St.
3 The Ranch Golf & Country Club 52516 RR 262, Parkland County

Most Comfortable Movie Theatre

- 1 South Edmonton Common 1525-99 St.
- 2 Gameau 8712-109 St.
- 3 North Edmonton Cinemas 14231-137 Ave.

Best Place to Get a Pint

- 1 Empress Ale House 9912-82 Ave.
- 2 O'Byrnes 10616-82 Ave.
- 3 The Black Dog 10425-82 Ave.

Best Spa

- 1 Swizzlesticks 11104-82 Ave.
- 2 Evelyn Charles Several Locations
- 3 Spasation Several Locations

EATS/DRINKS

Best Fries

- 1 Dadeo 10548A-82 Ave.
- 2 New York Fries Several Locations
- 3 Delux Burger Bar 9682-142 St.

Best Poutine

- 1 Delux Burger Bar 9682-142 St.
- 2 Route 99 8820-99 St.
- 3 Turkish Donair 10332-82 Ave.

Best Burger

- 1 Delux Burger Bar 9682-142 St.
- 2 Garage Burger 10242-106 St.
- 3 Burger Baron Several Locations

Best Pizza

- 1 Funky Pickle Several Locations
- 2 Rosebowl 10111-117 St.
- 3 Pharo's Pizza 8708-109 St.

Best Standby

- 1 Sugarbowl 10922-88 Ave.
- 2 High Level Diner 10912-88 Ave.
- 3 Dadeo 10548A-82 Ave.

Best Perogies

- 1 Bacon 6509-112 Ave.
- 2 Shumka Several Locations
- 3 Maria's Place / Taste of Ukraine 11739-83 St.

Best Seafood

- 1 Billingsgate Market 7331-104 St.
- 2 Vons Steakhouse & Oyster Bar 10309-81 Ave.
- 3 Joey's Only Several Locations

Best Coffee House

- 1 Sugarbowl 10922-88 Ave.
- 2 Second Cup Several Locations
- 3 Remedy 8631-109 St.

Best Vegetarian

- 1 Padmanadi 10625-97 St.
- 2 Café Mosaics 10844-82 Ave.
- 3 Blue Plate Diner 10145-104 St.

Best Patio

- 1 The Black Dog Rooftop 10425-82 Ave.
- 2 O'Byrnes 10616-82 Ave.
- 3 Earls Tin Palace 11830 Jasper Ave.

Best Place to Watch Sports

- 1 Hudson's Tap House Several Locations
- 2 Shanks 9927-178 St.
- 3 Elephant & Castle 10314-82 Ave.

Sexiest Servers

- 1 Joey Tomatoes Several Locations

NICE WORK



see magazine would like to congratulate and thank the 2008 best of edmonton winners.

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2 Vinyl 10736 Jasper Ave.
3 The Black Dog 10425-82 Ave.

Sexiest Clientele

1 The Black Dog 10425-82 Ave.
2 New City 10081 Jasper Ave.
3 The Empress Ale House 9912-82 Ave.

Best Bar Service

1 Filthy McNasty's 10511A-82 Ave.
2 The Empress Ale House 9912-82 Ave.
3 Hardware Grill 9698 Jasper Ave.

Best Indian

1 New Asian Village Several Locations
2 Khazana 10177-107 St.
3 Haweli 10220-103 St.

Best Korean

1 Bul Go Gi House 8813-92 St.
2 Lee House 7904-104 St.
3 Korean Village 7729-85 St.

Best Cajun

1 Dadeo 10548A-82 Ave.
2 Louisiana Purchase 10320-111 St.
3 Cajun House 7 St. Anne St., St. Albert

Best Japanese

1 Mikado 10350-109 St.
2 Japanese Village 10126 100 St.
3 Kyoto Several Locations

Best Italian

1 Chianti 10501-82 Ave.
2 Il Portico 10012-107 St.
3 Sicilian Pasta Kitchen Several Locations

Best Greek

1 Yannis Taverna 10444 82 Ave.
2 Koutouki Several Locations
3 Opa Souvlaki Several Locations

Best Chinese

1 Lingnan 10582-104 St.
2 Sam Wok 10417-67 Ave.
3 Mandarin Restaurant 11044-82 Ave.

Best Mexican

1 Julio's Barrio Several Locations
2 Acajutla 11302-107 Ave.
3 Taco Del Mar Several Locations

Best Thai

1 King and I 8208-107 St.
2 Pad Thai 10159-82 Ave.
3 Bua Thai 10049-113 St.

Best Vietnamese

1 Doan's Several Locations
2 Pagolac Several Locations
3 Hoang Long Several Locations

Best Desserts

1 Cheesecake Café 17011-100 Ave.
2 Death by Chocolate 8137-104 St.
3 Vi's for Pies 13408 Stony Plain Rd.

Best Organic Food Store

1 Organic Roots 10151-82 Ave.
2 Planet Organic 7917-104 St.
3 Sunterra Several Locations

Best Bakery

1 Bee Bell Health Bakery 10416-80 Ave.
2 Italian Centre Shop Several Locations
3 Bon Ton Bakery / COBS Several Locations

Best Deli

1 Italian Centre Shop 10878-95 St.
2 Fife and Dekel Several Locations
3 Sunterra Several Locations

Best Steak

1 Ruth's Chris 10103-100 St.
2 Ric's Grill 14229-23 Ave.
3 Vons Steakhouse & Oyster Bar 10309-81 Ave.

Best Donair

1 Marco's Famous 10504-82 Ave.
2 Queen Donair Several Locations
3 Charles Smart 8930-82 Ave.

BEST INTERNET CAFÉ • CAFÉ DABAR



Some you wanna go where everyone... minds their own screen and/or occasionally brings you a coffee. And where the surrounding are pleasant without causing undue glare. Oh, and fair trade coffee would be nice too. And chicken pies. Well, anyway, they're doing something right at Café Dabar down on Whyte Avenue, because they're perennial champs in the rent-a-computer-with-beverage category.

BEST WINE STORE • DEVINE WINES AND SPIRITS

So you open your wine store in 2005, and then a year later, the Alberta Liquor Stores Association (that's right: the ALSA themselves) name you Retailer of the Year for Edmonton & Northern Alberta. Clearly, you know what you're doing. That may also account for the enthusiastic response to deVine's regular wine seminars (we'll see you at Summer Rosés on the 12th), just one of the little extra touches that says "We care about your imbibing." Edmontonians are feeling their wine-y love.

Best Lunch to go

- 1 **Wok Box** Several Locations
- 2 **Oodle Noodle Box** Several Locations
- 3 **Sunterra** Several Locations

Best Breakfast

- 1 **High Level Diner** 10912-88 Ave.
- 2 **Barb & Ernie's** 9906-72 Ave.
- 3 **Friends & Neighbors** 10802-82 Ave.

Best Martini

- 1 **Savoy** 10401-82 Ave.
- 2 **Devlin's** 10507-82 Ave.
- 3 **Lux** 10150-101 St.

Best Late Night Eats

- 1 **Denny's** Several Locations
- 2 **Funky Pickle** Several Locations
- 3 **Sam Wok** 10417-67 Ave.

Best Brunch

- 1 **High Level Diner** 10912-88 Ave.
- 2 **Culina** 9914-89 Ave.
- 3 **Fairmont Hotel MacDonald** 10065 100th St.

Best High-end Dining

- 1 **La Ronde** 10111 Bellamy Hill
- 2 **Hardware Grill** 9604 Jasper Ave.
- 3 **Jack's Grill** 5842 111 St.

Best Beer Selection

- 1 **New Asian Village** Several Locations
- 2 **Brewsters** Several Locations
- 3 **Sugarbowl** 10922-88 Ave.

Best Wine List

- 1 **4th and Vine** 11358-104 Ave.
- 2 **Hardware Grill** 9698 Jasper Ave.
- 3 **Culina** 9914-89 Ave.

SHOPPING**Best Optical**

- 1 **Regent Optical** Several Locations
- 2 **Bakers Optical** 10025-106 St.
- 3 **Smith And Wight** 102-2731 Hewes Way

Best Beer Store

- 1 **Liquor Depot** Several Locations
- 2 **Tops** Several Locations
- 3 **Sherbrook** 11819 St. Albert Tr.

Best Wine Store

- 1 **DeVine Wines** 10111-104 St.
- 2 **Liquor Depot** Several Locations
- 3 **4th And Vine** 11358-104 Ave.

Best Shopping District

- 1 **Whyte Avenue**
- 2 **124 Street**
- 3 **West Edmonton Mall**

Best Place To Buy Vinyl

- 1 **Blackbyrd Myoozik** 10442-82 Ave.
- 2 **Listen** 10443-124 St.
- 3 **Southside Sound** 10342-82 Ave./
- Freecloud** 10764-101 St.

Best Place To Buy CDs (New)

- 1 **HMV** Several Locations
- 2 **Megatunes** 10355-82 Ave.
- 3 **Blackbyrd Myoozik** 10442-82 Ave.

Best Place To Buy CDs (Used)

- 1 **Blackbyrd Myoozik** 10442-82 Ave.
- 2 **Southside Sound** 10342-82 Ave.
- 3 **Megatunes** 10422-82 Ave.

Best Place To Buy DVDs

- 1 **HMV** Several Locations
- 2 **Blockbuster** Several Locations
- 3 **Best Buy** Several Locations

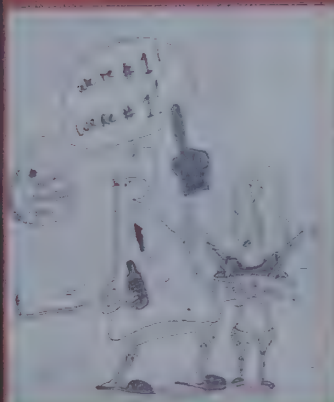


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- 2 **Books Unlimited** 12411-118 Ave
- 3 **Strathcona Books** 8104 Gateway Blvd.

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- 1 **Certified Radio** Several Locations
- 2 **JB's Power Centre** Several Locations
- 3 **A & B** Several Locations

Best Computer Store

- 1 **West World** 10333-170 St.
- 2 **My Mac Dealer** 10441-80 Ave.
- 3 **A-Computers** Several Locations

Best Movie Rental

- 1 **Movie Studio** Several Locations
- 2 **Alternative** 10050-82 Ave.
- 3 **The Lobby** 10815-82 Ave.

Best Art Supply

- 1 **Paint Spot** 10516-82 Ave.

Delta Art 11116-120 St.

- 3 **DeSerres** #2936, 8882-170 St.

Best Home Décor

- 1 **Ikea** 1311-102 St.
- 2 **Chintz And Co.** 10502-105 Ave.
- 3 **Tin Box** 10508-82 Ave.

Best Indie Women's Clothing Store

- 1 **Nokomis** 10838-82 Ave.
- 2 **Ginger** 10114-124 St.
- 3 **Bamboo Ballroom** 8206-104 St.

Best Chain Women's Clothing Store

- 1 **H&M** #2557 West Edmonton Mall
- 2 **Urban Women** 10200-102 Ave.
- 3 **American Apparel** 10750-82 Ave.

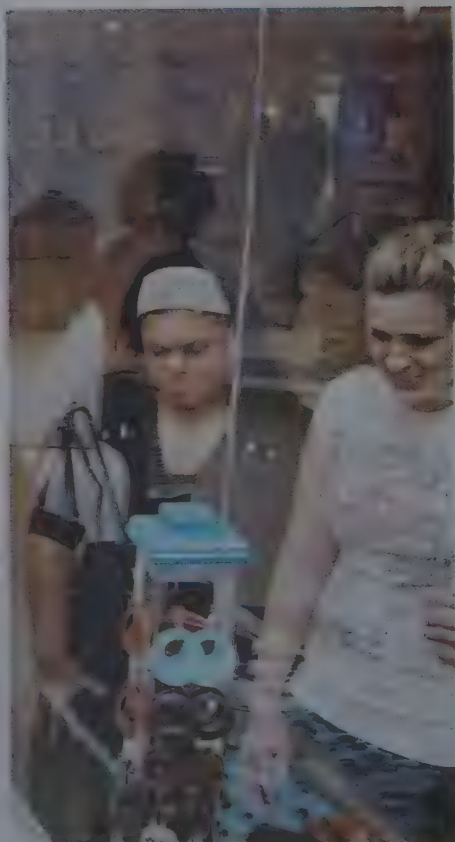
Best Indie Men's Store

- 1 **Queu** 8216-104 St.
- 2 **Nokomis** 10838-82 Ave.
- 3 **Foosh** 10544C-82 Ave.
- / **Ginger** 10114-124 St.

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- / Vespucci** 12529-102 Ave.

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- 1 Cash Canada** Several Locations
- 2 Uncle Ed's** 10319-97 St.
- 3 A1 Trading** 9434-111 Ave.

Best Shoe Store

- 1 Gravity Pope** 10442-82 Ave.
- 2 Wener Shoes** 10322 Jasper Ave.
- 3 Aldo** Several Locations

Best Bike Store

- 1 Redbike** 10918-88 Ave.
- 2 United Cycle** 10323-78 Ave.
- 3 Western Cycle** 10429-124 St.

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- 1 Swizzlesticks** 11104-82 Ave.
- 2 Chrome** 11320-104 Ave.
- 3 Propaganda** 10808-124 St.

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- / Gravity Pope** 10442-82 Ave.
- 3 Urban** 10020-102a Ave.

Best Outdoor Store

- 1 Mountain Equipment Co-op** 12328-102 Ave.
- 2 Camper's Village** Several Locations
- 3 Totem** 7430-99 St.

Best Furniture Store

- 1 IKEA** 1311-102 St.
- 2 Urban Barn** Several Locations
- 3 Ethan Allen** 17010-90 Ave.

Best Ski / Board Store

- 1 Plush** 10552-82 Ave.
- 2 Summit** 9977 178 St.
- 3 Easyrider** 4211-106 St. / FS #1353, 8882-170 St.

Best Skate Store

- 1 Plush** 10552-82 Ave.
- 2 FS** #1353, 8882-170 St.
- 3 Easyrider** 4211-106 St.

Best Tattoo Parlour

- 1 Strange City** 10522-82 Ave.
- 2 Ritualistics** 10544 Jasper Ave.
- 3 Atomic Zombie** 10121-124 St.

Best Piercing

- 1 Strange City** 10522-82 Ave.
- 2 Atomic Zombie** 10121-124 St. / Ritualistics 10544 Jasper Ave.
- 3 Divine** 10441-82 Ave.

Best Music Instrument Store

- 1 Gordon Price** 10828-82 Ave.
- 2 Long And McQuade** 10204-107 Ave.
- 3 Mothers Music** 10251-109 St.

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- 1 McBain's** Several Locations
- 2 Black's** Several Locations

3 Don's Photo 8721-156 St.
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Best Yoga Gear

- 1 lululemon** Several Locations
- 2 Yoga Loft** 10309-82 Ave.
- 3 Value Village** Several Locations

Best Consignment Store

- 1 Robes & Relics** 8210-104 St.
- 2 Vespucci** 12529-102 Ave. / Decadance 10760-82 Ave.
- 3 Caprice** 10118-124 St. **Value Village** Several Locations

Best Tailor

- 1 Europa Tailors** 2422, 8882-170 St.
- / Amsterdam** 10550-109 St.
- 2 Stitch It** Several Locations

Best Shoe Repair

- 1 Richard's** 10111-108 St.
- 2 Riverbend Shoe Renew** 604 Riverbend Square
- 3 Shoe Master** Several Locations

Best Comic Store

- 1 Warp** 1997-82 Ave.
- 2 Happy Harbour** 10112 124 St.
- 3 Comic King** Several Locations

Best Florist

- 1 Laurel's** 10404-82 Ave.
- 2 Eden Lilly** 10416-82 Ave.
- 3 Funky Petal** Several Locations

Best Hemp Store

- 1 2 Guys With Pipes** Several Locations
- 2 Shell Shock** 11727 Jasper Ave.
- 3 Jupiter** 8204-104 St.

Best Kitchen Store

- 1 IKEA** 1311-102 St.
- 2 Call The Kettle Black** Several Locations
- 3 La Gnome** #1814, West Edmonton Mall

Best Laundromat

- 1 Bubbles ??**
- 2 Soap Time** 7626-104 St.

Best Organic Supermarket

- 1 Planet Organic** 7917-104 St.
- 2 Organic Roots** 10151-82 Ave.
- 3 Sunterra** Several Locations

Best Jewellery Store

- 1 Groove Stone** 11100-51 Ave.
- 2 Plaid Giraffe** 10340-82 Ave.
- 3 Artifacts** 8222-103 St.

Best Lingerie

- 1 La Senza** Several Locations
- 2 Night Owl** 10180-101 St.
- 3 Dawn's Bratique** 10507 Kingsway Ave.

Best Fetish

- 1 Nightshades** 10832A-124 St.
- 2 Sanctuary** 10310-81 Ave.
- 3 B&D Emporium** 10081 Jasper Ave.

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- 1 Love Boutique** Several Locations
- 2 Source Adult** Several Locations
- 3 Hush ??**

Best Adult Video Store

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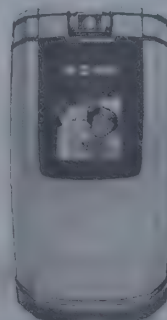
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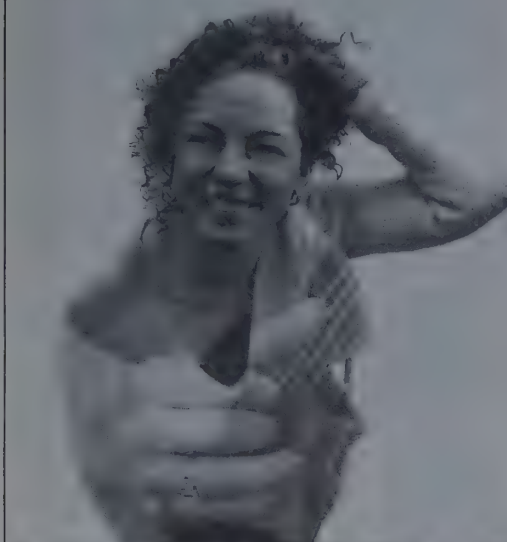
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Anne Green, director, WordFest: Banff-Calgary International Writers Festival



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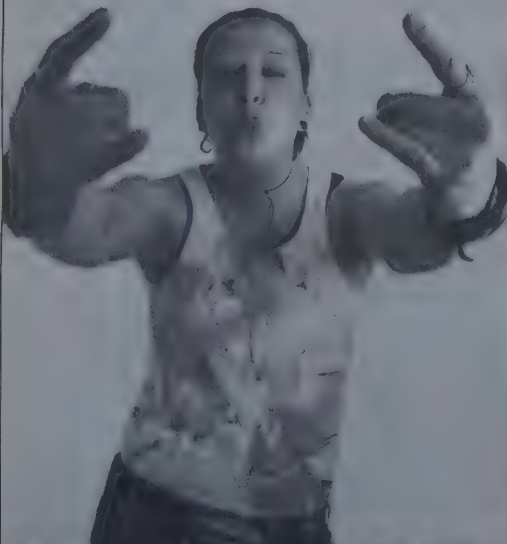
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MUSIC PREVIEW • CITY SOUNDTRACKS • BY EAMON MCGRATH | 407 words

They Come From The City Of Noise

CALGARY'S THE SUMMERLAD BRING A SINGLE OPUS ON THE ROAD AS A FULL-LENGTH HOMAGE TO THEIR HOMETOWN

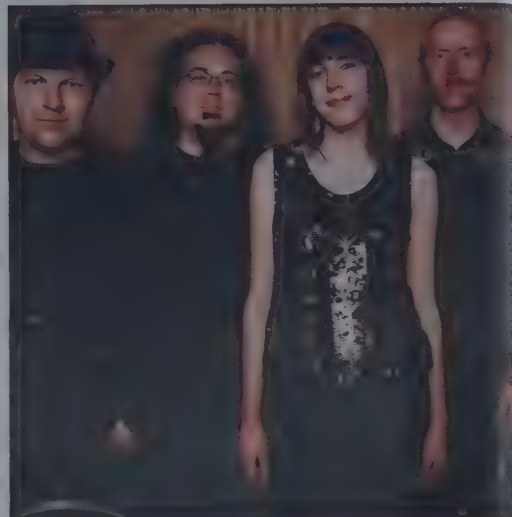
SUMMERLAD

w/ guests: June 5 (8 pm), New City Suburbs, 10080 Jasper Ave. \$10 at the door.

Calgary has become a city pushed to the brim: corporate towers stretch Toronto-style over an amoebic sprawl from horizon to horizon, the freeways connecting the downtown core to the suburbs are like clogged arteries, slick with oil money, always on the go.

Out of this dense noise, Calgary's Summerlad have composed an opus that offers a kind of soundtrack to such a place: the 40-minute stand-alone piece, *City of Noise*, charts one day in the life of a booming metropolis. It begins quietly, picks up speed for rush hour before getting to the office, charges full speed ahead for the drive home, and "ends with a lullaby."

Ironically, as the Summerlad com-



Lads like Calgary | The Summerlad's signature piece plays as a soundtrack to the city from which they come. Where's E-town's soundtrack, hm? PHOTO SUPPLIED

poses the perfect musical counterpart to a place so rich and vibrant with activity as Calgary, the band themselves conceive and release

their tunes at a comparatively slow rate: *City of Noise* took life as long as three years ago.

"Basically, it was back in 2005, and we were approached by a theater company who asked us to do a piece of music," recalls Arran Fisher, who supplies the Summerlad's guitar and bass duties. "We had this rock song called 'City of Noise' which was already written at the time, there were parts of it we'd already been jamming on and figuring out, and we liked to sort of expand on these sections of these four minute songs. We started writing an extended piece that was based on the elements that were already there in the short song."

Following the initial composition the Summerlad rehearsed the entire piece until completely perfected after this point, various versions of *City of Noise* were played to eager hometown crowds. "We've done it a few different ways," Fisher says. "One time our keyboardist was sick and so we did it as a three piece. We've done it with fifteen people. We had seven guitars, four vocalists. It ended up being a fifteen-person ensemble."

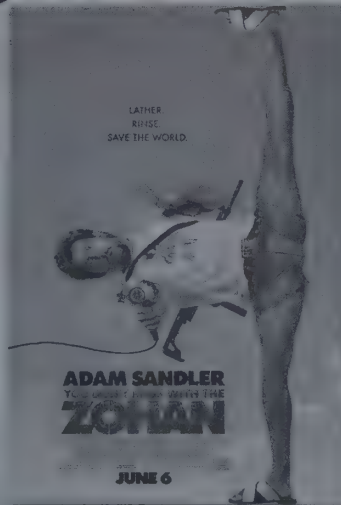
"It takes a lot of work, and patience," Fisher says. "It's just different considerations than your average sort of rock music. Writing a forty-minute song was actually a three-month process: we're really choosy about things. We take it pretty seriously, it's pretty involved how we approach composition. If you put enough work into it—if it has the quality and attention to detail we put into it—then it doesn't even really date itself specifically. It's just not the type of thing that's going to sound dated."

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CD REVIEWS



THE SECRET FIRES

I Only Want What I Can't See

(Routine)

★★★★☆

The Secret Fires are champions of Edmonton new punk scene—one that's fiercely punk in spirit, and thankfully more than a few yards away from a traditional "punk" sound. Their first full-length captures all the ferocity of their ferocious live show on analog tape. *I Only Want What I Can't See* was recorded live off the floor, with two inches and 100 feet of plastic spinning and flailing around on the reels. Perhaps the sweat and spit of these four fine gentlemen landed on that magnetic strip—how else to explain the piss, vinegar, and cheap red wine practically dripping off these songs? "I Surrender" is a perfect opener: with a snare line that signals the end of time, steamrolling bass, an unrelenting guitar attack, and poisonous, cryptic lyrics, the track sets the precedent for a record that could very well become Western Canada's new textbook for good, punishing, artistic rock 'n' roll. And it doesn't let up: "She Takes Her Time," "Travis vs. The Truth," "Highway Creep," and "Drug Front" are all destined to be anthems for Edmonton's newborn scene—with a slew of slurred-word punk rockers shouting along, ritualistically waving drink-filed hands. It's a rarity for an album to replicate the live show, but in Secret Fires' case, I really mean it when I say it. *I Only Want What I Can't See* comes so close, it's scary.

EAMON MCGRATH

LAL

Deportation
(Public Transit)

★★★★☆



Think of this Toronto trio as a political Portishead with a message so heavy that they make Michael Franti and Henry Rollins sound like Ace of Base.

Their third album ponders the lives of thousands of Canadians who come here from other countries to work menial jobs for minimum wage while dreaming of the country and professions that they left behind—and stoically recognizing that going back isn't an option either.

So *Deportation* may not be too easy to enjoy, but it's easy to appreciate. If you'd prefer to turn your brain off, the East Indian fusions of hip-hop and dub with hazy harmoniums, violins, tabla, and chunks of cello will delight your ears. "How The World Began," one of the standout tracks, keeps things traditional, calling out a tabla before the tune descends to its depths. Boasting a more accomplished sound than Lal's previous efforts, the hard-hitting *Deportation* gives the blues a new spin and some new scenery—and it hits close to home.

PROSPER PRODANIUK

THE DRESDEN DOLLS

No, Virginia...

(Roadrunner)

★★★★☆



The latest album from the punk-cabaret duo may be a hodgepodge of new originals, outtakes from their 2006 album *Yes, Virginia...*, and a sardonic cover of "Pretty in Pink," but it holds together as tightly as the knot in drummer Brian Vigliani's ever-present necktie. Amanda Palmer's lyrics may be cryptic enough to make even The Fiery Furnaces scratch their heads—did I mishear, or is she really singing "Put Pat Sajak back in office" on "The Kill"?—but her turns of phrase are so full of darkly funny wordplay that you can't help but keep listening for fear of missing the next epigram. ("Nothing is crueler than children who come from good homes," goes the first line from "Night Reconnaissance.") I like The Dolls best when they're spinning out rollicking, intricate, piano-pounding stories like "Ultima Esperanza" (about an internet romance) and "Lonesome Organist Rapes Page-Turner" (that one's probably self-explanatory). It's not even June, but The Dresden Dolls make me hungry for Halloween.

PAUL MATWYCHUK

ROBYN

Robyn

(Konichiwa/Cherrytree/Interscope)

★★★★★



According to "Curriculum Vitae," the opening track on her self-titled album, Robyn suckerpunched Einstein, stunt-doubles for Jackie Chan, and won the Nobel Prize for "superfoxiest female ever"—twice! But her heart breaks just like a little girl: by the end of the disc, she's crying herself to sleep in her pink silk sheets, begging the boy she likes to tell her he likes her back. In between, she vows to "kick ass all the way to Hong Kong" on the bubblegum rap song "Konichiwa Bitches," taunts a cocky record producer on "Handle Me," proclaims her freedom over a galloping violin section on "Be Mine!" and breaks your heart on the simple, vulnerable "With Every Heartbeat." She's diva, clown, torch singer, and pop genius all in one. And by the final track, "Dream On," in which she offers a glitterball benediction on all the "punks and lifers, scum and lowlives" rotting in prison or sleeping in gutters, Robyn's ascension into pop goddesshood is complete. Watch out, Madonna: if she ever fixes that awful hairdo, your throne is in trouble.

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- 7 Dangerous Kardinal Offishall
- 8 No Air Alicia Keys
- 9 Elevator Flo Rida
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EDDIES EXTRA

Issue 5 May 2008 ~ SPECIAL EDITION ~ BIGROCKBEER.COM

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The 2008 Eddies have come and gone but what remains are this year's entries (bigrockbeer.com/eddie), the treasured memories of a fantastic night and a load of money for our charities. By all measures, the 2008 event was the most successful to date.

Everyone at Big Rock would like to extend a huge thank you to the producers, the organizers and the sponsors of Edmonton's beeriest bash. We'll see you all again next year.

To see the best of all the entries visit bigrockbeer.com/eddie

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JUN 3 — TOM JONES Jubilee Auditorium
JUN 7 — ISLANDS Starlite Room
JUN 6 — IRON MAIDEN Rexall Place
JUN 6 — STATE OF SHOCK Jet Nightclub
JUN 8 — K.D. LANG Jubilee Auditorium
JUN 10 — THE JEALOUS GIRLFRIENDS, SEA WOLF Velvet Underground
JUN 11 — SONS OF BUTCHER, JEALOUS GIRLFRIENDS Starlite Room
JUN 12 — ABOVE AND BEYOND Empire Ballroom
JUN 12 — TRIBUTE TO GARY MCGOWAN Starlite Room
JUN 13 — DROWNING POOL Jet Nightclub
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JUN 14 — LOCAL H Starlite Room
JUN 11 — BRIAN MELO Jet Nightclub
JUN 15 — CRAIG FERGUSON Winspear Centre
JUN 19-20 — CIRQUE DU SOLEIL "SALTIMBANCO" Rexall Place
JUN 20 — CHASING JONES Starlite Room
JUN 20 — CRASH KELLY, GILBY CLARK Metro Billiards
JUN 20 — CRASH PARALLEL Pawn Shop
JUN 20 — FACE TO FACE Edmonton Event Centre
JUN 21 — THE CONSTANTINES, LADYHAWK Starlite Room
JUN 21 — SEAN KINGSTON Cowboys
JUN 21 — MATTHEW GOOD Jubilee Auditorium
JUN 23 — JOHN SCOFIELD Macab Theatre
JUN 23 — PINK MARTINI Winspear Centre
JUN 25 — COWBOY JUNKIES MacDougall United Church
JUN 25 — RYNDAN Myer Horowitz
JUN 25 — THE NATIONAL PARKS Velvet Underground
JUN 26 — COSMIC GATE Empire Ballroom
JUN 27 — MATT DUSK Century Casino
JUN 27 — TANYA TUCKER Jet Nightclub
JUN 28 — DAVID WILCOX Century Casino
JUN 4-5 — BLUE OYSTER CULT Century Casino
JUL 4-5 — BOONDOCK FESTIVAL Gibbons, AB
JUL 7 — MARK KNOPFLER Jubilee Auditorium
JUL 7 — ASHES DIVIDE Starlite Room
JUL 8 — BILLY IDOL River Cree Casino
JUL 8 — ERICS TRIP Starlite Room
JUL 11 — AD ROCK Starlite Room
JUL 11 — JIMMY EAT WORLD Edmonton Event Centre
JUL 11 — STAMPEDERS Century Casino
JUL 11 — JAMES TAYLOR Rexall Place
JUL 13 — SO CUNT Shaw Conference Centre
JUL 17 — BRIAN BYRNE Drumwood Lanes, AB
JUL 17 — THE BLACK CROWES Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium
JUL 17 — NAZARETH, HEADPINS River Cree Casino
JUL 17 — MYCEL, JEAN, ANON, SEAN PAUL Rexall Place
JUL 19-19 — MOTION CITY SOUNDTRACK Bent River Valley Ranch
JUL 19 — MOTION CITY SOUNDTRACK Starlite Room
JUL 22 — NICK GLIDER Churchill Square
JUL 23 — BOY GEORGE Edmonton Event Centre
JUL 24 — LOS STRAIGHTJACKETS Pawn Shop
JUL 24 — TED NUGENT River Cree Casino
JUL 25 — KASKADE Bank Ultra Lounge
JUL 26 — SERENA RYDER Winspear Centre
JUL 27 — AIDAN PRIEST Shaw Conference Centre
JUL 27 — MESSIAH NOGGOLO Starlite Room
JUL 27 — THE ZOMBIES, COLIN BLUNSTONE, ROD ARGENT Century Casino
JUL 28 — NINE INCH NAILS, CRYSTAL CASTLES Rexall Place
JUL 29 — COLOPLAX Rexall Place
AUG 10 — EDMONTON ROCK FESTIVAL, Gallagher Park
AUG 12 — TOM PETTY & THE HEARTBREAKERS, STEVE WINWOOD Rexall Place
AUG 13 — MOTTLEY CRUE, PAPA ROACH, BUCKCHERRY Rexall Place
AUG 17 — GERRY AND THE PACEMAKERS Century Casino
AUG 17 — OCTAPIUS PROJECT Velvet Underground
AUG 24 — 3DROCKS DOWN, HINDER, STAINED RECALL Place
AUG 29 — LACRAGON Drumwood Lanes
SEP 4 — OASIS, PHIL ADAMS Rexall Place
SEP 9 — FINTRILL Starlite Room
SEP 5 — ALL AMERICAN REJECTS, FABER DRIVE, SIMPLE PLAN Rexall Place
SEP 6 — D.O.A., RANCID, WEDNESDAY NIGHT HEROS Shaw Conference Centre
SEP 9 — BLACK PARTY EDMONTON Event Centre
SEP 9 — SANTANA Rexall Place
SEP 13 — ELTON JOHN Rexall Place
SEP 14 — DAVE STEWART Winspear Centre
SEP 15 — NED DIAMOND Rexall Place
SEP 21 — BONNIE TYLER Festival Place
SEP 27 — ALICE COOPER Jubilee Auditorium
SEP 27 — KELLY CLARKSON, REBA MCMINTYRE Rexall Place
OCT 4 — GARNET ROGERS Queen Alexandra Hall, 462-6565
OCT 10 — FEIST Rexall Place
OCT 20 — ENGELBERT HUMPERDINCK Winspear Centre
OCT 24-25 — CELINE DION Rexall Place
NOV 5 — IAN TYSON Winspear Centre

LIVE MUSIC

THURSDAY

ALTERNATIVE

FAT DAVE SOUND WAVE ROSE BOWL

BLUES & ROOTS

DALE DOUCEUR TRIO HUBERTS

JAZZ

CHRIS SEGGER HAVEN SOCIAL CLUB w/ The Jazz Grind

Experiment and Geoff Wybenga Trio.

DON BERNER FOUR ROOMS

GRAHAM LAWRENCE JULIAN'S PIANO BAR

POP & ROCK

CHUCK ALLEN SHERLOCK HOLMES DOWNTOWN

KATHLEEN EDWARDS STARLITE ROOM w/ Justin Rutledge.

TWENTYONESEVEN URBAN LOUNGE

DJS/CLUB NIGHTS

DI HARRY JAMES THE DOCKS Every Thursday.

I LOVE 80S NEW CITY LIKWID LOUNGE w/ Dexter Nebula & Anarchy Adam. Every Thursday.

HIGHER LEVEL THURSDAYS LEVEL 2 LOUNGE Drum & bass w/ DJ's Dreadnought, PhilCat, MC Etoile, and guests. Every Thursday.

JUNIOR BROWN RED STAR Every Thursday.

MIA FELLOW BUDDY'S w/ DJ West Coast Baby Daddy. Every Thursday.

SALSA STYLE THURSDAYS THE BANK ULTRA LOUNGE Every Thursday.

URBAN SUBSTANCE THURSDAYS GINGUR SKY LOUNGE w/ Urban Substance Sound Crew. Every Thursday.

FRIDAY

ALTERNATIVE

THE B-MOVIES THE STUDIO AT MEAD HALL w/ The Pools, Hazardous Punks, and Missing in Action.

BLUES & ROOTS

ERIN HOSELTON STEEPS OLD GLENORA

MISTER LUCKY BELL & COURT

ROLLANDA LEE FRESH START BISTRO w/ Andrew Glover.

SMOOTH JAZZ TRO JEFFREY'S CAFE

TED ANN CARROT COMMUNITY ARTS COFFEEHOUSE

JAZZ

DON BERNER FOUR ROOMS

EFA TORONIA JR. TRIO

HUBERTS

GRAHAM LAWRENCE JULIAN'S

PIANO BAR

MARK MURPHY QUARTET

YARDBIRD SUITE

THE TUXEDO JUNKIES JEFFREY'S CAFE

POP & ROCK

BEIJA FLOR VELVET UNDERGROUND w/ F&M

CHUCK ALLEN SHERLOCK HOLMES DOWNTOWN

DUANE ALLEN SHERLOCK HOLMES CAPILANO

JORDON LEE HAVEN SOCIAL CLUB w/ Dan Jean.

LOVE JUNK ON THE ROCKS

THE RUM BROTHERS CASINO YELLOWHEAD

THIRD PERSON VIEW URBAN LOUNGE

VIP CASINO EDMONTON

DJS/CLUB NIGHTS

BITCH BITCH BITCH NEW CITY SUBURBS Every Friday.

CONNECTED FRIDAYS THE BANK ULTRA LOUNGE Local house & international guest DJs. Every Friday.

DI CLAY STONEHOUSE PUB Every Friday.

DI EDDY TOONFLASH BUDDY'S Every Friday.

DI LOOSE CANNON IRON HORSE Every Friday.

DI SHAWNIBIS ON THE ROCKS Every Friday.

FORBIDDEN FRIDAYS EMPIRE BALLROOM Every Friday.

FORMULA FRIDAYS LEVEL 2 LOUNGE DJ Groovy Luvy, DJ Fuzze. Every Friday.

FRIDAY NIGHT FREAK OUT NEW CITY LIKWID LOUNGE w/ Anarchy Adam and G-Whiz. Every Friday.

JUICY DJ SUEDE LOUNGE Every Friday.

THE MOD CLUB HALO Soul, R&B, indie, Brit pop, new wave, reggae & classic punk. Dis Blue Jay & Tracy D. Every Friday.

NEON NIGHTS FLTH Music Every Friday.

RED FRIDAYS THE DOCKS Military appreciation night. Every Friday.

ROCK THE GLOBE WEEKENDS GLOBE TAP BAR & GRILL Every Friday.

SEXY FRIDAY 180 DEGREES Reggae and Top 40 w/ Generation IVEXX & DJ G-Unit. Every Friday.

SATURDAY

ALTERNATIVE

RIPTON IMPISH CLUB w/ Brian Tongod.

SINNERS ADE THE STUDIO AT MEAD HALL w/ Skepsis, Shitgits, and Reeper.

THRASTIC FIBROS BACKDRAUGHT PUB w/ Taramuja, The Dirtsbags, and Meshiahator.

BLUES & ROOTS

MARK MURPHY QUARTET YARDBIRD SUITE

MISTER LUCKY BELL & COURT

PERNELL REICHT AND THE HARD DRINKERS BLACK DOG

SMOOTH JAZZ TRO JEFFREY'S CAFE

JAZZ

DON BERNER FOUR ROOMS

PETRO POLJUN JULIAN'S PIANO BAR

SMOOTH JAZZ TRO JEFFREY'S CAFE

POP & ROCK

CHRISTIAN HANSEN & THE AUTISTICS WUNDERBAR w/ The Joe and Rappers Are People.

CHUCK ALLEN SHERLOCK HOLMES DOWNTOWN

DUANE ALLEN SHERLOCK HOLMES CAPILANO

LOVE JUNK ON THE ROCKS

NICK PERRAULT HAVEN SOCIAL CLUB w/ The Fat Dave Sound Wave.

THE RUM BROTHERS CASINO

THIRD PERSON VIEW URBAN LOUNGE

VIP CASINO EDMONTON

DJS/CLUB NIGHTS

ATHLETES' NIGHT RATT w/ DJ Kings. Every Saturday.

DI CLAY STONEHOUSE PUB Every Saturday.

DI HOT PHILLY RED STAR Every Saturday.

DI MIC-E SUEDE LOUNGE Every Saturday.

FOR THOSE WHO KNOW HALO House w/ Junior Brown, Luke Morrison, and Nestor Odion. Every Saturday.

THE MENACE SESSIONS THE BLACK DOG w/ Miss Mannered. Every Saturday.

OH SNAP! THE TEMPLE Degree & All Out DJs. Every Saturday.

PLANET INDIGO SUGGESTIVE SATURDAYS LEVEL 2 LOUNGE Bikes, electro, house, spun by P1 residents. Every Saturday.

CROWN & ANCHOR PUB 15277 CASTLEDOWNS RD. 472-7666

CROWN PUB 10709-109 ST. 428-5618

DOYLE'S PUB 2679-151 AVE. 479-1961

THE DRUID 1606 JASPER AVE. 454-9928

DUSTERS PUB 6402-118 AVE. 474-5554

ECCO PUB 9605-66 AVE. 435-5050

EDDIE SHORTS 1073-124 ST. 433-3663

ELEMENT LOUNGE 10807-106 AVE. 420-1530

EMPIRE BALLROOM WEM, UPPER LEVEL PHASE II, 488-9494

EMPEROR ALE HOUSE 9912-82 AVE. 758-2754

ESMERALDA'S THE RAMADA ON KINGSWAY, 11834-KINGSWAY AVE. 435-7320

EXPRESSIONS CAFE 2075-107 AVE. 471-8025

FESTIVAL PLACE 100 FESTIVAL WAY, SHERWOOD PARK 464-7852

FIDDLER'S ROSE 8906-99 AVE. 439-0788

FILTHY MCNASTY'S 21 FL. 1051-82 AVE. 432-5224

FLOR GAMING LOUNGE & SPORTS BAR 13403 FORT RD. 406-7935

FOUR ROOMS 137 CITY CENTRE AVE. 426-4767

FOX PUB 10725-109 ST. 990-0680

FRESH START BAKERY & BISTRO 484 RIVERBEND SQUARE. 433-9632

FUNKY BUDDHA 1034-82 AVE. 433-9676

GAS PUMP 1060-114 ST. 488-4843

H2O SPORTS BAR & LOUNGE 10044-82 AVE. 433-5794

HALO 10338 JASPER AVE. 432-4256

HAWKEYE'S TOO 10044-102 ST. 421-9898

HILLTOP PUB 8220-106 AVE. 439-7359

HOLIDAYZ BAR 10704-24 ST. 432-1861

HUBERTS 7601-15 ST. 436-1161

IVORY CLUB & EBONY LOUNGE 2940 CALGARY TR. SOUTH. 465-6800

JEFFREY'S CAFE & WINE BAR 9640-142 ST. 451-8890

HIGHLIGHT • OOH, LOOK WHO'S GOT A NEW OUTFIT



This Guy's The Real Deal | And he's finally back in the game with a spunky new band. PHOTO SUPPLIED

Fat Dave Sound Wave • May 31 • Empire Ale House & Haven Social Club

Will the real Dave Johnston please stand up? No, the other one. Not the one from Fat Dave and the Crime Wave (the Crime Wave is SO 2006). The other one. From that new band. Reincarnated with the help of a couple new faces and a more rootsy vibe, the Fat Dave Sound Wave will be spreading their newfound rootiness all over Edmonton this weekend. Check 'em at the Empress if you're out dodging hipsters on Whyte Saturday afternoon, or at the Haven after dusk. There Fat Dave will be joined by Nick Perrault & The Good Intentions and Jill Pollock.

RED CARPET SATURDAYS EMPIRE BALLROOM Every Saturday.

ROCK THE GLOBE WEEKENDS GLOBE TAP BAR & GRILL Every Saturday.

SATURDAYS SUCK NEW CITY w/ Greg Gory and Blue Jay.

SUGGESTIVE SATURDAYS LEVEL 2 LOUNGE Every Saturday.

URBAN DANCE PARTY IRON HORSE w/ DJ 420. Every Saturday.

ALTERNATIVE

TEENAGE HEAD NEW CITY SUBURBS w/ Let's Dance.

DJS/CLUB NIGHTS

DI RUDY ELECTRO BUDDY'S House, progressive, trip-hop. Every Sunday.

GOT TO GIVE IT UP BLACK DOG w/ DJ Red Dawn. Every Sunday.

HOUSE ARREST STOLLI'S w/ Johnny Dangerous, Andy Inertia, and guests. Every Sunday.

BLUES & ROOTS

RUSSEL JACSON BLUES ON WHYTE w/ Selwyn Copper.

DJS/CLUB NIGHTS

DI RUDY ELECTRO BUDDY'S Every Monday.

ELECTRIC NONSENSE BLACK DOG w/ Confederacy of Dunces, Dad Rock, TJ Hookah, and Rear Admiral Saunders. Every Monday.

MUNCH ON METAL MONDAYS NEW CITY LIKWID LOUNGE Every Monday.

TUESDAY

DJS/CLUB NIGHTS

DI ARROWCHASER BUDDY'S Every Tuesday.

DI HOT PHILLY RED STAR Experimental indie rock, hip hop, and electro. Every Tuesday.

COOL LATE TUESDAYS FUNKY BUDDHA Dance Lessons. Every Tuesday.

WEDNESDAY

ALTERNATIVE

LES TABERNUCKLES THE STUDIO AT MEAD HALL w/ The Pools, Death From Above 1970 Crush, and Shitgits.

POP & ROCK

JASON GREELEY SHERLOCK HOLMES WEM

QUEEN ALEXANDRA HALL 10425 UNIVERSITY AVE. 439-9046

RAMADA SOUTH 5359 CALGARY TRAIL. 434-3431

RATT THILL SUR, U/OF A CAMPUS 492-2153

RENNER'S 10108-149 ST. 444-1822

ROBERT TEGLER STUDENT CENTRE 7128 ADA BLVD. CONCORDIA 479-8481

THE ROCK PUB #570 ST. ALBERTA 458-5571

ROSARIO'S 1301 K. KARLOK CENTRAL 1175-108 AVE. 447-4077

ROSE & CROWN PUB 10225-101 ST. 426-7827

ROSIE'S BAR & GRILL 10475-80 AVE. 439-7211

SNEAKY PETER'S 12315-118 AVE. 435-7770

STARLITE ROOM 10030-102 ST. 428-1099

ST. BASIL'S CULTURAL CENTRE 10189-71 AVE. 438-6410

STEEPS OLD GLENORA 12411 STONEY PLAIN RD. 488-1505

STEEPS LOUNGE COLLEGE PLAZA, 11116-82 AVE. 988-0185

STRATHMORE STEAK & PIZZA LOUNGE 9514-87 ST. 465-5478

THE STUDIO & MEAD HALL 10940-166A ST. 439-0860

THE TAPHOUSE 9020 MCKENNEY AVE, ST. ALBERT. 439-0860

TEDDY'S PLACE 11761 JASPER AVE. 488-0984

TOUCH OF CLASS GAMING ROOM CHATEAU LOUIS, 11727 KINGSWAY AVE. 435-7770

TWILIGHT AFTERHOURS 10018-105 ST. 990-1772

URBAN LOUNGE 1054 WHYTE AVE. 437-7699

VELVET UNDERGROUND 10200-102 ST. 428-7827

WHISTLESTOP LOUNGE 2476-132 AVE. 451-5506

WINDSOR BAR AND GRILL 11717 CHURCHILL SQUARE 428-1474

WINSPEAR CENTRE 4 CHURCHILL SQUARE 428-1474

WUNDERBAR HOFBRÄUWERY 5120-101 ST. 426-2286

XWREKS 9303-50 AVE. 439-8928

DJS/CLUB NIGHTS

BEATPARTY WEDNESDAYS STOLL'S Every Wednesday.
DI HARLEY THE BANK Every Wednesday.
GLITTER GULCH WEDNESDAYS BLACK DOG w/ DJ Buser Friendly Every Wednesday.
GUEST DJ RED STAR Every Wednesday.
ROCK OUT WITH YER BOX OUT NEW CITY Every Wednesday.
WILD CHERRY WEDNESDAYS STOLL'S w/ Triswitch, Round Funk, Steve Velocity, Fusion Every Wednesday.
WILD STYLE WEDNESDAYS-HIP-HOP VELVET UNDERGROUND Every Wednesday.

CONCERTS

BACH AND FORTH MAY 31, 8 PM. TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, 10014-81 AVE. Featuring a choir, vocal soloists, instrumentalists and the music of Bach. Tickets: \$15, \$10 student/senior inc. TIX.

BENJAMIN VERDEY MAY 30, 8 PM. MUTART HALL, 10050 MACDONALD DRIVE. Performance by the classical guitar player. Tickets: \$30, \$25 student/senior at TIX.

BLUEGRASS CIRCLE SHOWCASE JUNE 8, 1 PM. DOW CHEMICAL CENTRE, FORT SASKATCHEWAN. Seven hours of music including 13 bands playing. Tickets: \$25 at TIX.

EDMONTON METROPOLITAN CHORUS JUNE 11, 7 PM. MCCOUGALL UNITED CHURCH, 10025-101 ST. The chorus performs Aniel Ramirez's "Misa Criolla". Tickets: \$12/\$10 student/senior.

EMERGENZA BATTLE OF THE BANDS MAY 31, 8 PM. JET NIGHT CLUB. The Edmonton finals including Death of Perception, King Ring Nancy, September Stone, and more. Info: 910-8629.

EXPLORATIONS SERIES CONCERT FIVE-HARDCORE MAY 30, 7 PM. STANLEY A. MILLER LIBRARY. Features one of Canada's finest freejazz drummers, Mark Hundevad. Second half all show features rock/metal oriented grooves and improvisation. Tickets: \$6/\$10 at TIX.

FUNDRAISER FOR SEEDS MAY 31, 7:30 PM. QUEEN ALEXANDRA HALL. Organization that works in Abba, Ethiopia to bring families out of poverty. Performances by Jessa Hene, Rob Heath, and others. Tickets: \$20 at TIX.

HARMONY IN THE VILLAGE JUNE 6, 7:30 PM. VILLAGE LIFESTYLES, 10429-79 AVE. Performances by 5 local singers. Tickets: \$20 at the door.

LIVE FROM THE MUSEUM: THE U-22 REVUE EVERY WED. UNTIL JUNE 4. MUSEUM CAFE, ROYAL ALBERTA MUSEUM, 12044-103 AVE. Featuring a mix of new artists, age 22 and under, and professionals including "Master Jam" sessions. Tickets: \$10 at the museum or CKUA studio.

MUSIC WEDNESDAYS AT NOON WED. 12:10-12:50 PM. MCCOUGALL UNITED CHURCH Free admission, bring a bag lunch. Tea and coffee available. Info: 468-4964.

PENA MAY 31, 8 PM. BLUE CHAIR CAFE. Created by the band Bomba. Monthly latin gathering including food and featuring an acoustic set. Tickets: \$10 at the door.

RAJATON SINGS ABBE JUNE 10, 7:30 PM. WINSPEAR CENTRE. Finnish vocal group Rajaton make their debut with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra singing ABBE. Tickets: \$30-\$55 w/ the Winspear.

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NEWCASTLE PUB & GRILL 3-6 pm. Hosted by Willie James & Crawford.

O'BYRNE'S IRISH PUB 9 pm. Hosted by Joe Bird.

THE OVERDRIVE 1:30-5 pm. "Anything goes" afternoon acoustic jam hosted by The Shufflehound.

TEDDY'S LOUNGE & EATERY 9-11 pm.

MONDAY

LB'S PUB 9 pm-12:30 am. Hosted by Shaved Posse: Ken, Fred, Gordie, and Matt.

PLEASANTVIEW HALL 7 pm. Acoustic fiddle jam hosted by Wild Rose Old Time Fiddlers Society. Info: Willy 474-5270.

THE IVORY CLUB 8 pm. Hosted by Marty Vinko.

ROSE BOWL/ROUGE LOUNGE 9 pm-12 am. w/ Mike McDonald and Sherry-Lee Wisor.

TUESDAY

THE DRUID 9 pm. Hosted by Chris Wynters.

SIDELINERS PUB 8 pm. All Star Jam. Hosted by Alicia Tait and Ricky Siderar.

THE TAPHOUSE 8:30 pm-1 am. Moosehead Jam, hosted by Mark Ammar, Dale Collins, and Noel Mackenzie.

WEDNESDAY

CAFE BRITT 7-9 pm. Hosted by Paul LePage.

THE ROCK PUB Acoustic night.

EDDIE SHORTS Open jam, all gear provided.

HOOIGANZ PUB 7:30 pm. Hosted by Rock'n Roll Kenny.

LITTLE FLOWER OPEN STAGE 8 pm. Hosted by Brian Gregg. Info: www.littleflower.ca, 429-3624.

THE NEW TAPHOUSE 9 pm. Hosted by Danny Floyd.

PLEASANTVIEW HALL 7:30 pm. Bluegrass jam hosted by Northern Bluegrass Circle Music Society.

STEEPS TEA LOUNGE Acoustic open mic every Wed. Email Jessie at j.lalbert@gmail.com by Mondays to book a spot that week.

KARAOKE

B-STREET BAR Wed-Sun w/ Brad Scott.

BLIND PIG Wed & Fri w/ Shelley.

BUD'S LOUNGE Fri & Sat, 9 pm-1:30 am w/ Mr. Entertainment.

CHIMMY'S Thu, Fri, Sat, 9:30 pm-1:30 am w/ Jimmy.

CHRISTOPHER'S PUB Tue, 9 pm, w/ Sonia/ProSound.

CROWN & ANCHOR PUB Thu, 10:30 pm.

CLIFF'S PUB & PANTRY Sat & Sun w/ Krista, Liquid Entertainment.

DEVANES PUB Thu, 8 pm.

DOYLE'S PUB Thu, 10 pm-2 am w/ Cathy, Sat, 10 pm-2 am w/ Ewan.

THE DRUID Wed, 9 pm w/ Mr. Entertainment.

DUSTER'S PUB Sat.

D.W.'S PUB & GRILL Fri, 9-11 am. Hosted by Mr. Entertainment.

ECCO PUB Mon, 9 pm-1 am w/ Sonia/ProSound Productions.

ELEMENT LOUNGE Wed, 9 pm.

FORT GAMING LOUNGE & SPORTS BAR Fri, 9 pm-1 am w/ Angel How.

FOX PUB Tue, 9 pm.

FUNKY BUDDHA Sun, 9:30 pm w/ Mr. Entertainment.

GAS PUMP Tue & Wed, 9 pm-1 am w/ Gord's Live Jukebox.

H2O SPORTS BAR & LOUNGE Tue, Thu, Sat & Sun.

HAWKEYES TOO Fri & Sat, 8 pm w/ Hot Karaoke Productions.

HILLTOP PUB Thu, 9:30 pm.

HOOIGANZ PUB Thu & Fri w/ Krista, Liquid Entertainment.

INGLEWOOD PUB Thu, 9:30-2 w/ Gord, Fri & Sat w/ Jolly Greg Giant.

JUGS PUB Sat, 9 pm.

KEEP IT SIMPLE (KIS) Club Tue & Sun, 6-10 pm. Except 2nd Tue of the month.

KNIGHTS PUB SOUTH Fri & Sat, 10 pm-2 am Gord's Live Jukebox.

LB'S PUB Tue, 9:30 pm-1:30 am w/ The Karaokeknuts.

THE LOCKER ROOM PUB Mon, 9 pm-1 am w/ Norm.

SEEN IT LIVE · GREAT GIGS YOU MISSED LAST WEEK



Sopping Wet | Nothing like a good 'ol country dance to kick off the summer—the Swiftys rocked the Pawn Shop last Saturday till the dance floor was soaking. See *Wildlife* on page 47 for more. PHOTO BY RSH GRINKOWSKY

LADYTRON W/ DATAROCK
STARLITE ROOM · MAY 20

Dressed in matching red jogging suits, Norwegian weirdos Datarock attack the Tuesday night crowd with over-the-top DEVO-at-a-gay-bar antics. It's hard to tell, but I'm pretty sure they're ready to crack up behind those giant Macho Man Randy Savage wraparound sunglasses, and for a while they have the audience in the palms of their sweaty hands. Sadly, like so many opening bands, Datarock overstay their welcome. "It's like they don't want to leave!" my date complains, and I agree, until a drunken strumpet invites herself onstage and treats the crowd to some "dancing." I'm no Fred Astaire, but this broad would make Elaine from *Seinfeld* look like Debbie Reynolds. The band don't seem slighted, and after a few amateur stripper moves and at least three faceplants, the tipsy ballerina excuses herself. Bravo. After being gifted by a greedy bartender (thanks, drinks at Starlite aren't expensive enough), I settle in for Ladytron. No laptops in sight (for me, a deal-breaker during live shows), only hordes of KORG synths, an acoustic drummer, and two guitarists. The Liverpool electro rockers look more like runway models than musicians, but they have the chops to match their chiseled good looks, and the sold-out room is treated to 90 minutes of compelling industrial music.

TRAVIS SARGENT

THE HIVES W/ LOCKSLEY
EDMONTON EVENT CENTRE · MAY 24

I realize I'll be crucified for saying this, but the folks at the Event Centre are finally figuring out how to host a rock show. No more frisking and 15 wristbands, just a quick stamp and off you go. Congrats team, you're on your way to not being the worst venue in the universe. Green Bay's Locksley kick off the night, and though they're from Wisconsin, I am unable to forgive their unabashed wholesomeness: "Golly, thanks for com-

sive enough), I settle in for Ladytron. No laptops in sight (for me, a deal-breaker during live shows), only hordes of KORG synths, an acoustic drummer, and two guitarists. The Liverpool electro rockers look more like runway models than musicians, but they have the chops to match their chiseled good looks, and the sold-out room is treated to 90 minutes of compelling industrial music.

TRAVIS SARGENT

ing everyone!" the cardigan-clad singer chirps. Golly? What year is this, 1950? When you tell your mother you're dating a musician, this is the kind of band she imagines he plays in. If I ever have a backyard tea party I might invite 'em, but until then I'll pass. In contrast, the Hives' set is a start-to-finish rock 'n' roll spectacle. The band plow through an impressive amount of material, culling songs from as far back as the "A.K.A. I-D-I-O-T" EP, plus a handful of hits from *Veni Vidi Vicious*. With pure bawlsy bravado, singer Howlin' Pelle Almqvist hams it up between songs like an amphetamine-fueled punk rock televangelist; guitar slinger Nicholas Arson is straight outta *Mad Magazine*, bug-eyed and doing the chicken; and everyone looks sharp in matching schoolboy suits. There wasn't a single moment during the hour-long set I wasn't entertained, and when Almqvist says you're witnessing the greatest rock show on earth, you believe every word.

TRAVIS SARGENT

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FILM REVIEW • ENVIRO-DOCUMENTARY • BY TOM MURRAY (451 words)

Soon They'll Make One About The Dead Ducks



Draw Your What | Best Pitt shows off his guns in this wholesome movie. PHOTO SUPPLIED

LAURA DUNN'S DOCUMENTARY TAKES A CLEAR-EYED LOOK AT THE CONSEQUENCES OF INDUSTRIAL OVERDEVELOPMENT AND OUR DIZZYING RUSH TO BUILD MORE WHAT THE EARTH CAN'T SUSTAIN

THE UNFORESEEN

Directed by Laura Dunn, with Gary Bradley, Robert Redford, William Greider, Ann Richards, and Willie Nelson. Metro Cinema, 9826-101A Ave., Friday through Sunday, and Tuesday at 7 and 9 pm. (4 stars)

Considering the environmental SNA-FUs here in Alberta, it's not all that difficult to relate to Laura Dunn's documentary, *The Unforeseen*.

Dunn's second feature (after 2000's

Green) traces the struggle between developers and environmentalists around Austin, Texas—particularly in Barton Springs, a public, spring fed swimming hole that's borne the burden of nearby construction. The film serves as not so much a warning about the dangers of overdevelopment, but instead provides iron clad proof of them.

The "star" of the documentary is Gary Bradley, a businessman who built the massive Circle C Ranch in the economic free-for-all that was Texas in the 1980s.

Joining up with the mining corporation Freeport-McMoRan after a disastrous financial run, Bradley found himself at odds with local environmental activists, who correctly

predicted that the runoff from their development would destroy Barton Springs and eventually cause problems with the Edwards Aquifer, the areas underground water table.

Earth First! members rallied against Bradley—who availed himself of his partner's high powered resources and a skilled, professional lobbyist—but the eventual outcome was never in doubt. The Texas Legislature passed a law that managed to squeeze past the rising tide of negative publicity and allow Freeport-McMoRan to do as they saw fit with their property.

The results of their victory shouldn't come as a surprise to anyone who has witnessed rampant industrial overdevelopment; before

and after shots of Barton Springs show the polluting effect of the runoff, including the eventual near destruction of the fish population.

In other hands *The Unforeseen* might have come across as something of a screeching diatribe, but Dunn's film is actually a subtle, intricate look at a sad situation.

It's even surprisingly sympathetic to the "villains"; in her interviews with Bradley he comes across as a broken man, baffled at the way in which his life has turned out.

Political realities are laid out with disarming frankness. Former Democratic governor of Texas Ann Richards—who voted against the bill in question—explains the maze of partisan politics that allowed a demon-

strably bad law to be passed.

Even with executive co-producer Robert Redford showing up as an interviewee (he grew up around and swam in Barton Springs as a child) Dunn manages to avoid sentimentalizing the issue.

Instead she shows stark realities that point to the trend to build as much as possible: the ugliness of new developments, the sprawl, the spiritual emptiness.

It's a beautifully shot film, the camera lingering longer on rich images than conventional for most documentaries—you could almost see executive co-producer Terrence Malick's hand in the proceedings, though he apparently was hands-off in that regard.

DVD DICTATOR • THE MOVIES YOU MUST BUY THIS TUESDAY

DIAMONDS!

Flawless

CAST | Michael Caine, Demi Moore, Lambert Wilson, Nathaniel Parker

Two London bank heist films came out at about the same time this year... but while *The Bank Job* was a modest hit, this interesting picture about an inside job at the London Diamond Corporation in the 1960s never even played Edmonton, despite having a much higher-powered cast: Demi Moore is a female executive constantly passed over for promotion and Michael Caine is the janitor who recruits her. It's no classic, but it's got Michael Caine stealing diamonds in the 1960s... and what more does a movie really need?

MONEY!

Boarding Gate

CAST | Asia Argento, Michael Madsen, Carl Ng, Kelly Lin

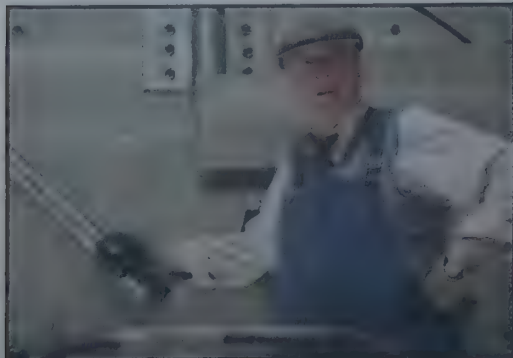
The Dictator hasn't seen this one, but he has seen writer/director Olivier Assayas' *Demonlover*, and he still can't scrub that movie out of his memories—and so the idea of Assayas making another kinky, arty, S&M-flavoured tale of industrial espionage fills him with excitement. The fact that it stars Michael Madsen, Mr. Blonde himself, as a ruthless financier and a lingerie-clad Asia Argento, a fearlessly sexual actresses (albeit, admittedly, not one of the most talented) as his bored lover and top corporate spy, is the icing on the cake.

ONIONS!

The Onion Movie

CAST | Steven Seagal, Daniel Dae Kim, Len Cariou, Don McManus

If *The Onion* is this generation's *Mad* magazine, then it's fitting that it should have its own *Up the Academy*. This cursed project was originally slated for a 2003 release (!), but lackluster responses from test audiences convinced 20th Century Fox to shelve it. Various parties tried to revive the project by shooting new footage; meanwhile, *Onion* staffers distanced themselves farther and farther from it. It's going straight to DVD this week, with Steven Seagal getting top billing as "Cock Puncher." Hmmm...



Blimey! They don't 'arf put a big bleedin' doah onnis, guvnah! | Michael Caine playing the part he was born for: bank-robbing janitor. PHOTO SUPPLIED

MOVIE REVIEW • CHICKS FLICK • BY NICOLA SIMPSON KHULLAR 1,699 words

Carrie On



Like Visiting Old Friends | They're all here: Big, Steve, Harry, Smith, Sanford, Anthony, Oh, the girls are there too. PHOTO SUPPLIED

FOR FANS, WATCHING SEX AND THE CITY FILM WILL BE LIKE SLIPPING ON A PAIR OF MANOLO BLAHNIK'S

SEX AND THE CITY
Written and directed by Michael Patrick King, Starring Sarah Jessica Parker, Kim Cattrall, Kristin Davis, Cynthia Nixon
★★★★☆

I know sometimes I complain about getting the chick flicks, but this one I asked for. I think it's only fair to reveal that I was a fan of the HBO show *Sex and the City*, and while I had my doubts about its big screen transition, I still wanted to see it.

It's always a risk to take a successful TV show and create a movie version. Will it have the same tone as

the series? Will the elapsed years be kind to the actors? Will the movie jump the shark where the show might not have?

But from the moment it started until it ended, I couldn't stop the corners of my mouth from curving upwards. Afraid that other critics in the screening might see my stone-faced objectivity crack, I slumped in my seat and tried to stop smiling. By the end of the movie, I must have looked like I had some kind of palsy.

Bottom line: If you're one of the millions of people who have been looking forward to this, you'll be happy. If you never watched the show and just get dragged along, chances are you'll enjoy the ride.

Sex/relationship columnist Car-

rie Bradshaw reminds us that most people come to New York looking for two things—labels and love. Both are easy to find in the Big Apple, but

AFRAID THAT OTHER CRITICS IN THE SCREENING MIGHT SEE MY STONE-FACED OBJECTIVITY CRACK, I SLUMPED IN MY SEAT AND TRIED TO STOP SMILING. BY THE END OF THE MOVIE, I MUST HAVE LOOKED LIKE I HAD SOME KIND OF PALSY.

beware of the fakes that lurk everywhere.

When we last left our high-stepping quartet, Carrie (Sarah Jessica Parker) and Mr. Big (aka John James Preston, played by Chris Noth) were ON in their on-again-off-again romance. Miranda (Cynthia Nixon) had married Steve (David Eigenberg) and moved to outer space

(Brooklyn) with their son Charlotte (Kristin Davis) and Harry (Evan Handler) had adopted a little girl from China, and Samantha (Kim Cattrall) discovered that the love that lasts through chemo (Jerrod Smith, played by Jason Lewis) counts more than her previous body count.

Where they go in the movie is a Tiffany box to be unwrapped. I'm not going to spoil anything here. But needless to say, there are break-ups and make-ups, do-overs and make-overs.

The best thing about a movie like this is feeling that you're visiting old friends. And they're all here. Big, Steve, Harry, Smith, Sanford, Anthony, Enid even Magda. Only one new character is introduced halfway through, with Oscar-winner Jennifer Hudson (*Dreamgirls*) as Carrie's personal assistant.

We learn no big secrets here. Samantha is not the result of a remarkable gender reassignment. Carrie is not dying of lung cancer from all the

ciggies she smoked. And Miranda and Charlotte haven't been having a wild affair for the last ten years.

The characters stay true to form. While Carrie wants a really big closet instead of an engagement ring, Samantha would prefer a "ring with diamonds" to a "diamond ring." Miranda wants to be a Superwoman and Charlotte is just irrepress-

ibly WASPy in a crazy multicultural way. Every fan of the show identified with at least one of the characters, though perhaps fewer with manneater Samantha, whose rapacious appetites no one openly aspires to. The series had the ability to draw women together in friendship, not catty competition, and made us realize that in every one of us there is a little Miranda, a little Carrie, a little Samantha, and a little Charlotte (in my case, a lot of Charlotte).

Yes, *Sex and the City* is as sweet and tart as the signature cosmopolitan. And yes, often these women seem to have more dollars than sense. There are a few false notes, such as having to accept how much plastic surgery Candice Bergen seems to have had, and seeing horse-faced Parker look almost pretty at times. And when it clocks in at nearly two and a half hours, it only stands to reason that the second half might seem a little slow.

But fans of the show, female or male, will lap it up like the froth on a frozen hot chocolate from Serendipity on the Upper East Side.

Sex and the City is a love letter to its fans, and it teaches us to look past the labels of lover, wife, mother, and professional to the woman underneath. And that's not fake.

TELEVISION • COMMENTARY 1,663 words

The Perils Of Time Travel



TELEPROMPTER NICOLA SIMPSON KHULLAR
HOW ADVERTISING MAKES FOR SHORTER HOURS IN CANADA

Time goes by in funny ways in TV-land. The number of commercials blasted at us seem to expand and collapse depending on what show and network you're watching. But if it seems like there are more ads on TV, that's because there are. 15 years ago there were 13 minutes of commercials in each hour of a primetime drama such as *Law and Order*. This season that selling time had increased by about 5 minutes. In Canada, we've always been some-

what screwed over by the fact that our ad density regulations are different than those south of the border. So while primetime shows on US channels can shift some commercials to daytime in order to free up narrative space, we're stuck with the same number of ads all day. In the past, that has meant that programs that are simulcast on Canadian networks, such as *Grey's Anatomy*, included extra ads, costing us up to 3 minutes of Meredith/McDreamy tonsil hockey per episode.

So when we hear that new shows by Joss Whedon (*The Dollhouse*) and J.J. Abrams (*Fringe*) will be shown on Fox with commercial time cut in half, we're relieved and excited. And nervous (note to self: watch these shows on US networks as time-shifters, to avoid Canadian simulcast overages). It's not a new concept. Anytime that a big movie event is shown on the tube, special spon-

sors such as Ford create goodwill by bribing us with fewer ad breaks. In other words, we're so used to being bombarded by ads on TV that we're expected to get down on our collective knees and be grateful for any reprieve.

What's different about Fox's strategy next season for *Dollhouse* and *Fringe* is that it will continue all season long, not just to hype a premiere. Giving the audience what they want is dangerous territory to wade into for a network. Pretty soon viewers will be demanding fewer commercials in all their favourite programs, and then where will the sponsors be? Because while ad time has increased over the last several years, audiences are paying less and less attention to ads, thanks to new technology. Viewers are blurring commercials with DVRs, or bypassing them altogether with DVD box sets and downloads. Ten years ago, NBC experi-

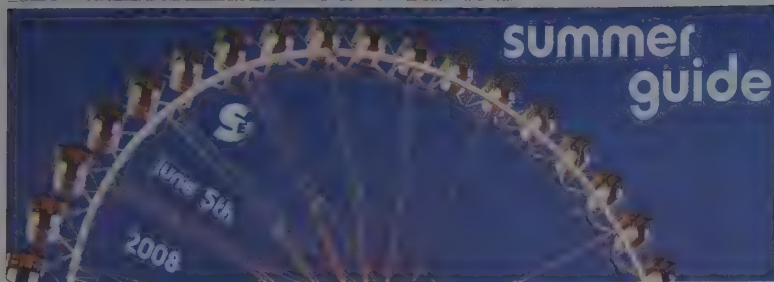
mented with *Friends*, allowing their sponsors to work with TiVo: users could click on Joey's easy chair and find out where to purchase it. Maybe this idea was ahead of its time, but it didn't last long.

But it's not just the sponsors that are screwing around with the time machine. Last week's season finale of *Desperate Housewives* catapulted us five years into the future. Usually we only see this kind of thing on soap operas, when new babies suddenly turn into sex-crazed teenagers over the course of a weekend. But *Alias* had a two-year amnesiac break and *One Tree Hill* also fast-forwarded through four years to allow their hotties to get through hypothetical college (something the original *Beverly Hills, 90210* should have considered before putting Andrea Zuckerman in the old folks' home). And god only knows what freaky rips in the time continuum we'll continue

to see on *Lost*.

The benefit to this kind of narrative strategy is that it shakes things up, including the audience. The drawback? Well, it shakes things up, including the audience. A sudden shift in time and characters can be off-putting for viewers who commit to living their lives through the tube. It's tough when your best virtual friends age faster than you do, and leave you behind.

But we now live in a society that treats time as a less important commodity than the networks and advertisers do. All of a sudden we're acting as though there should be 30 hours in a day despite the fact that we know that there aren't. Hey, my time is worth something. So is yours. And yes, I don't want to waste it on commercials either. But would you rather waste it on *American Gladiators*?



SCREEN REVIEW BY MICHAEL HINGSTON | 622 words

Horror show



Live and let die | Is Tyler a screen survivor, or tragic pinata? PHOTO SUPPLIED

YOU'LL WANT TO AVOID THESE STRANGERS IN THE NIGHT

THE STRANGERS

Directed by Bryan Bertino. Starring Scott Speedman and Liv Tyler. Opens Friday, May 30.

★ ★

About half an hour into *The Strangers*, long-term lovers James Hoyt and Kristen McKay look out the window of the Hoyt family's summer home, well after midnight, only to see an alarmingly pale teenager standing on the sidewalk, staring in at them. A distressed Kristen (Liv Tyler) thinks they should leave her alone, but James (Scott Speedman) insists, "People don't just stand out there for no reason. They want something."

The trick is, of course, that the girl and her two masked associates really do swarm the Hoyt home for no reason. And as they proceed to vandalize, firebomb, and otherwise terrorize the innocent couple and their innocent belongings—all with no clear motive whatsoever—you start to wonder: is this meant to be some kind of commentary on Western fears of arbitrary violence in a post-9/11 world, or just a new bottom rung on the ladder of pre-packaged sensationalism?

Sadly, it turns out *The Strangers* isn't much interested in taking a stand on anything that's not wielding an axe.

Even before they arrive home that night, James and Kristen's relationship has gone through some fairly major turmoil. While at a friend's wedding reception earlier that day, James carries Kristen into the cold parking lot and proposes to her, only to be awkwardly rejected. Back at the house, after eating some ice cream straight from the tub, he calls his friend Mike (Glenn Howerton) and asks him to come pick him up as soon as possible.

In other words, James has all the motivation necessary to get away from this house, and the knife-wielders haven't even shown up yet.

When they eventually do, it goes roughly as you'd expect. They appear suddenly in front of windows,

bang on doors, and write ominous (though perfectly legible) messages in lipstick. Writer/director Bryan Bertino goes to great lengths to make the attackers seem like literal ghosts, able to appear and disappear at whim as well as immediately sense which closet Kristen is hiding inside at any moment; he also makes good use of the long shot to stretch out those gruelling moments where we can see the masks floating in the background but the couple cannot.

What he clearly isn't interested in, however, are his characters. Tyler and Speedman are good enough as their respective innocent-victim stereotypes—in particular, Tyler seems to have perfected the art of delivering every line while exhaling—but the script is so by-the-numbers that they seem more like tragic pinatas, frantically trying to escape the battering they were designed for.

The attackers fare even worse, with a combined half-dozen lines (and two of them repeats, at that) spread out for the three of them.

Another major marketing obstacle for what seems like a straightforward horror movie is the lack of actual violence. With only two main characters to chase around, you know neither of them is going to get anything worse than a flesh wound before the last 15 minutes, and it just wouldn't do to have the spectral attackers show any real signs of injury. Instead, *The Strangers* mistakenly thinks that by losing the gore, it will somehow become a "psychological thriller" instead—it's almost a relief when Mike arrives on the scene and... well, waste your money if you like.

So the question then becomes why does this movie exist? Its artistic intent clearly goes no further than first-weekend box office results, and even the argument of re-telling these supposedly true events doesn't hold up—the 2006 French film *It's already adapted this same story*, which in turn only took place in 2005. Two re-enactments in the span of just three years? That goes beyond unnecessary; it's tabloid cinema, and I, for one, want no part of it.

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD HAS GONE GREEN!



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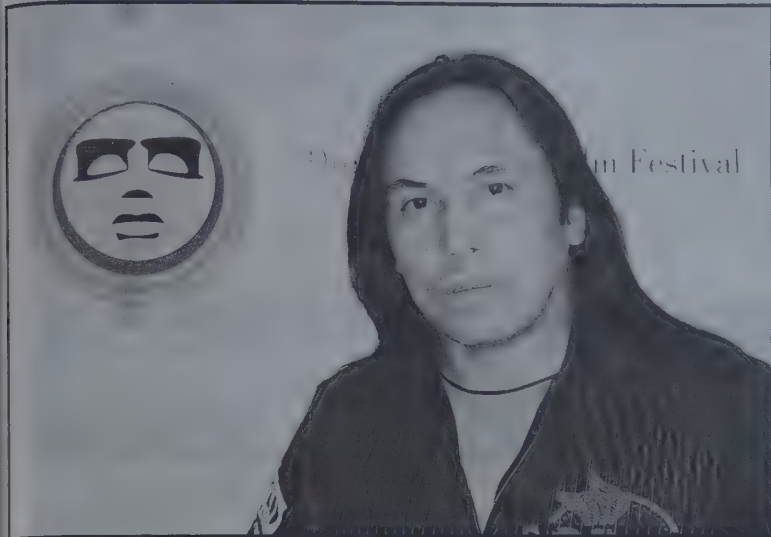
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SCREEN - ABORIGINAL FILM - BY MICHAEL HINGSTON (1654 words)

Aboriginal And Original



Gerald Auger: "I respect your religion—you should respect mine as well." SUPPLIED

DREAMSPEAKERS FESTIVAL MEETS THE COMMUNITY EYE TO EYE

DREAMSPEAKERS INTERNATIONAL FILM AND TELEVISION FESTIVAL 2008

June 4-7 Metro Cinema (9828 - 101A Ave.) and the Stanley Wilner Library Theatre (7 St Winston Churchill Square). Tickets available at venue box offices. More information available at www.dreamspeakers.org.

Since its inception in 1993, the Dreamspeakers Film Festival has showcased aboriginal filmmaking from around the world and provided a venue for cultural exchange on many levels. Its mandate is as much to engage the mainstream film viewer as it is to support the thriving aboriginal film community, and this year's festival features 33 films of all styles and genres, from countries including Canada, the United States, Mexico, and New Zealand.

"This year was an extremely tough year—we had many submissions, and we had to turn many down," said Murray Jurak, the festival's president. "Because the aboriginal community is so small worldwide, we have lean years and we have fat years. This year was a fat year."

In addition to the films themselves, Dreamspeakers plays host to a series of events throughout the week, including the World Indigenous Film Awards and the annual Walk of Honour ceremony, which recognizes outstanding achievements in Canadian aboriginal filmmaking. Both Gene Zwozdesky, the province's minister for aboriginal relations, and Edmonton Mayor Stephen Mandel will be attending the Walk of Honour.

This year's festival also marks the debut of the international speaker series, featuring executives from the Canadian Television Fund and

the CRTC, and a special screening night for the expanded Dreamspeakers on Tour program, which allows aboriginal youths in the Edmonton area to write, direct, and edit their own documentary short in the span of just 12 weeks. Executive director Helen Calahasen hopes that the positive impact filmmaking has had on these youths (some had weapons confiscated at their first session—now two are going directly from this program to film college) doesn't go unnoticed.

"The provincial government, the municipal government—they're all talking about, 'We need to start changing lives around. We need to start doing something to make an impact on our communities that will take out the violence,'" she said. "Well,

and Dreamspeakers board member, says his first priority as a filmmaker was simply to tell his father's story.

"I see myself always trying to create a sense of awareness and understanding," he said. "[The film] was by no means an attack on the Church for what they are or what they've done, but basically to tell them, 'I respect your religion—you should respect mine as well.'"

Auger says he decided to premiere his film at Dreamspeakers because of its unique status as a festival that appeals to both aboriginals and non-aboriginals, where everyone has a chance to share his or her unique experiences. He believes this process of "dreamspeaking," which is what the first Dene elders believed filmmaking was (and where the festival

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HELEN CALAHASEN HOPES THE POSITIVE IMPACT FILMMAKING HAS HAD ON THESE YOUTHS, (SOME WHO HAD WEAPONS CONFISCATED AT THEIR FIRST SESSION—NOW TWO ARE GOING DIRECTLY FROM THIS PROGRAM TO FILM COLLEGE) DOESN'T GO UNNOTICED.

we've done that to a certain extent with [Dreamspeakers on Tour]. We have shown that these youths have turned their lives around completely. I'd really like to see governments at all levels come out and see that we've done it—with not very much money given to us."

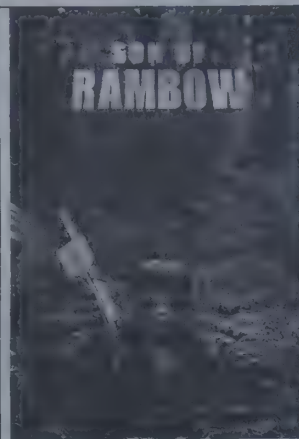
One film in particular to keep your eye on this year is Gerald Auger's documentary *Honour Thy Father*, which has its world premiere on opening night. The film chronicles the conflict between Auger and the Anglican Church, as he attempts to bury his father Jack on church property (as per his mother's wishes) but in a traditional Cree ceremony. Auger, who is also an actor, journalist,

gets its name), is a universal process that can bridge cultural differences. Calahasen also points out that Dreamspeakers is able to stay directly relevant and accountable to its audience because of its financial independence.

"We don't get funding from the Canada Council for the Arts, so we have to go after every dollar," she said. "As a result, we end up having to meet the community eye to eye, and convince them why we should be here, why we're important."

With such a high-profile list of guests and events to back her up, it seems that her argument is getting easier and easier to make.

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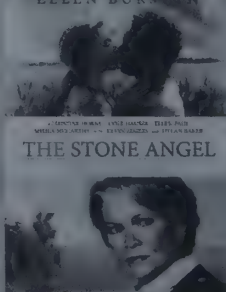
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The Stone Angel

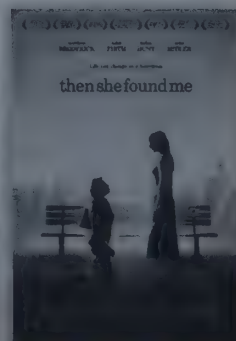
Nightly 6:50 & 9:10 pm

Sat & Sun

Matinees @ 2:00 pm

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Then She Found Me

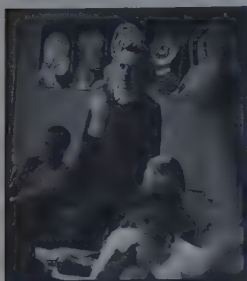
Nightly 7:00 & 9:00 pm

Sat & Sun

Matinees @ 2:30 pm

Rated 14A

BEYOND THE BLURBS • ONLINE CRITICS HAVE THEIR SAY



Settle down | You kids make critics bitter, and we're not paying for you to travel. SUPPLIED

THIS WEEK: A DARK HORSE WINS THE PALME D'OR AT CANNES

Jeffrey Wells, *Hollywood Elsewhere* | "Steven Soderbergh's *Che*, my choice for the most exciting and far-reaching film of the Cannes Film Festival, didn't win the Palme d'Or this evening. Lamentable, dispiriting news. Instead the jury gave the coveted top prize to Laurent Cantet's justly admired *Entre les Murs*. I was wandering around Montmartre when the news broke, and when I heard it I just swore to myself and

put it out of my mind and kept walking. I didn't have my computer with me and I didn't care. Cantet has everyone's respect, but to me his films have always seemed more quietly admirable than arousing. I've never gotten a lightning-bolt charge from anything he's done. I just feel let down about this, knowing what a Palme d'Or win might have done to at least partly help *Che*'s chances in finding the right U.S. distribution deal. Sean Penn and the jury members went with their idea of the best film of the festival, and that's cool. *Entre les Murs* will play at elite art theatres when it opens in the U.S. for two or three or four weeks. Connoisseurs of first-

rate French cinema will pay to see it. Terrific."

Andrew O'Hehir, *Salon* | "When Cantet and actor/screenwriter François Bégaudeau arrived in the festival's press-conference room clutching their Palme d'Or, they brought 23 teenagers with them, virtually the film's entire cast. I would venture to guess that never in Cannes history has quite such a boisterous group been crammed onto that podium. After trying to answer a couple of questions through the joyful pandemonium, Cantet pretended to turn serious, claiming they were all going back to Paris on the 11 p.m. train. The

students erupted in a choral howl: 'Mais non!' When press conference host Henri Behar asked whether the kids would travel with the film to the places it's likely to go—to Brussels, London, and New York, for example—Cantet held his head in his hands in despair. 'Brilliant,' he said. 'Thank you so much.' His 23 cast members roared their approval. Wherever that group is as I write this, two hours later on a warm and windy Cannes night, I imagine they've only gotten noisier."



Scotiabank Theatre
IMAX ENTERTAINMENT

Scotiabank Theatre Edmonton with IMAX

SHOWTIMES MAY 30-JUNE 5, 2008

GARNEAU

8712-109 STREET • 433-0778
SON OF RAINBOW PG
Nightly 7:30, 9:10; Sat & Sun matinees 2:00.
Coarse language, not recommended for young children.
No 9:10 show June 5.

PRINCESS

10357-87 AVENUE • 433-0778
THE STONE ANGEL 14A
Nightly 6:50, 9:10; Sat & Sun matinees 2:00. Sexual content.
THEM SHE FOUND ME 14A
Nightly 7:00, 9:00; Sat & Sun matinees 2:30.

PARKLAND

205 Main Street, Spencer Grove • 462-2352
SEX AND THE CITY 18A
Nightly 6:55, 9:15; matinees Fri Sat Sun & Tues 1:00; Movies for Women Tues 1:00.

THE STRANGERS

Nightly 7:10, 9:10; matinees Fri Sat Sun & Tues 1:05, 3:05. Highlighting scenes, coarse language.
INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL PG
Nightly 7:00, 9:15, 9:35, 9:40; Fri Sat Sun & Tues 12:30, 12:55, 3:00, 3:15. Violence, highlighting scenes.

IRON MAN

Nightly 6:55, 9:20; matinees Fri Sat Sun & Tues 12:45, 3:10. Violence, not recommended for young children.
THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN PG
Nightly 6:45, 9:30; matinees Fri Sat Sun & Tues 12:30, 3:45. Violence.

METRO

9878-101A AVENUE, CLODIER HALL, OTTAWA THEATRE • 425-9272
THE UNFORESEEN W/ THE WARNING STC
Fri Sat Sun 8:00, 7:00.
MUGHAL E ASAM STC
Sun 7:00.

DREAMSPEAKERS: OLDER THAN AMERICA

Nightly 7:00, 9:00.
DREAMSPEAKERS: FILM FESTIVAL STC
Thurs 7:00.

GRANDIN THEATRE

GRANDIN HALL, 300 WYNDHAM STREET, ST. ALBERT • 458-9922
WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS PG
Daily 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:20, 9:15.
Coarse language, not recommended for children.

IRON MAN

Daily 1:35, 4:05, 6:45, 9:10.
Violence, not recommended for young children.

SEX AND THE CITY

Daily 1:00, 3:45, 6:30, 9:15. No passes.
THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN PG
Daily 1:25, 3:55, 6:40, 9:20. No passes.

INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL

Both 1:45, 4:15, 7:00, 9:20. Violence, highlighting scenes.

LEDCO CINEMAS

4707-50 St. John • 462-2728
WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS PG
Nightly 7:10; matinees Sat Sun 1:10. Coarse language, not recommended for children.

IRON MAN

Nightly 7:30; matinees Sat Sun 3:35.
Violence, not recommended for children.

INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL

PG
Nightly 6:55, 9:30; matinees Sat Sun 12:55, 3:30.
SEX AND THE CITY 18A
Nightly 6:55, 9:35; matinees Sat Sun 12:55, 3:35.

WETASKIWIN CINEMA 4 PLEX

2840-36, Wetaskiwin • 352-3922
WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS PG
Nightly 7:10; matinees Sat Sun 1:10.
Coarse language, not recommended for children.

IRON MAN

Nightly 7:30; matinees Sat Sun 3:35.
THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN PG
Nightly 6:50, 9:40; matinees Sat Sun 12:30, 3:45. Violence.

INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL

PG
Nightly 6:55, 9:35; matinees Sat Sun 12:55, 3:30. Violence, highlighting scenes.
SEX AND THE CITY 18A
Nightly 6:55, 9:35; matinees Sat Sun 12:55, 3:35.

NEW WEST MALL 8

WEST EDMONTON HALL, PHASE II ENTRANCE 7 • 444-1829
BOX OFFICE OPENING MONDAY 6:15 • OPEN HOURS SAT/SUN 1:30
STREET KINGS 18A
Fri-Mon-Thurs 12:10, 12:50, 3:40, 4:50, 7:15, 9:45. Violence.

HUM'S ISLAND

PG
Fri 4:40, 7:10, 9:30; Sat-Sun 2:00, 5:00, 7:10, 9:30; Mon-Thurs 7:15, 9:30.
THE RUINS 18A
Thu 4:45, 6:45, 9:10; Sat-Sun 1:40, 4:20, 6:45, 9:10; Mon-Thurs 6:45, 9:10. Gory scenes.

21

PG
Fri-Mon-Thurs 6:50, 9:40; Sat-Sun 1:15, 4:15, 6:50, 9:40. Violence, mature themes.

DRILLBIT TAYLOR

PG
Fri-Mon-Thurs 7:00, 9:20; Sat-Sun 1:50, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20.
Violence, coarse language.

DR. SEUSS' HORTON HEARS A WHOLE

G
Fri 4:30, 6:30, 8:50; Sat-Sun 1:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:50; Mon-Thurs 6:30, 8:50.
COLLEGE ROAD TRIP II
Fri 5:00, 7:00, 9:15; Sat-Sun 1:40, 4:10, 7:20, 9:15; Mon-Thurs 7:20, 9:15.

10,000 B.C.

PG
Fri 4:00, 6:40, 9:50; Sat-Sun 1:00, 4:00, 6:40, 9:50. Violence.

SOUTH EDMONTON

1525 9th Street • 436-8588
THE STRANGERS 14A
Fri-Thurs 12:15, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40. Gory scenes, highlighting scenes.

SEX AND THE CITY

18A
Fri-Thurs 11:45, 2:00, 3:15, 5:30, 6:45, 9:00, 10:15; Fri-Thurs 11:45, 2:00, 3:15, 5:30, 6:45, 9:00, 10:15. Fri-Thurs 11:45, 2:00, 3:15, 5:30, 6:45, 9:00, 10:15. Sex & Strangers Screening Tues 1:00. No passes.

INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL

PG
Fri-Thurs 12:00, 12:45, 1:30, 2:15, 3:00, 3:45, 4:30, 5:15, 6:00, 7:00, 7:45, 8:30, 9:15, 10:00, 10:45; Mon-Thurs 12:00, 12:45, 1:30, 2:15, 3:00, 4:00, 4:45, 5:30, 6:15, 7:00, 7:45, 8:30, 9:15, 10:00, 10:45. Not recommended for children, coarse language.

MADE OF HONOR

PG
Fri-Sat, Mon-Thurs 12:50, 3:40, 6:50, 9:20, 12:50, 6:50, 9:20.
Sexual content, coarse language.

IRON MAN

PG
Fri-Sat, Mon-Thurs 1:00, 4:15, 6:30, 7:30, 9:30, 10:30; Sun 1:00, 4:15, 7:30, 9:30, 10:30. Not recommended for young children, violence.

HAROLD & KUMAR ESCAPE FROM GUANTANAMO BAY

18A
Fri-Wed 12:40, 2:50, 5:20, 8:00, 10:40. Sexual content.
FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL 18A
Fri-Wed 1:20, 4:10, 7:10, 9:50. Sexual content.

WWE: ONE NIGHT STAND 2008

STC
Sun 6:00.
NORTH EDMONTON
14231-137th Avenue • 732-2223

THE STRANGERS

14A
Fri-Thurs 12:40, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:05. Gory scenes, highlighting scenes.

SEX AND THE CITY

18A
Fri-Thurs 12:00, 1:40, 3:10, 4:45, 6:10, 7:40, 9:10, 10:40, 11:10, 12:40, 1:40, 3:10, 4:45, 6:10, 7:40, 9:10, 10:40, 11:10, 12:40. Sex & Strangers Screening Tues 1:00. No passes.

INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL

PG
Fri-Thurs 12:10, 12:50, 1:50, 3:00, 3:40, 4:40, 5:15, 7:00, 7:45, 8:30, 9:10, 10:40, 11:10, 12:50, 1:50, 3:00, 3:40, 4:40, 5:15, 7:00, 7:45, 8:30, 9:10, 10:40, 11:10, 12:50. Star & Strangers Screening Tues 1:00. Violence, highlighting scenes.

THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN

PG
Fri-Thurs 12:20, 3:30, 6:45, 9:45; Fri-Thurs 1:10, 4:10, 7:20, 10:25. Violence.

WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS

PG
Fri-Thurs 12:50, 2:50, 5:50, 10:15. Not recommended for children, coarse language.

SPEED RACER

PG
Fri-Thurs 1:00, 4:30, 6:40, 9:00. Sexual content, coarse language.

MADE OF HONOR

PG
Fri-Thurs 1:40, 4:30, 6:40, 9:00. Sexual content, coarse language.

HAROLD & KUMAR ESCAPE FROM GUANTANAMO BAY

18A
Fri-Thurs 1:30, 3:50, 6:10, 9:30. Sexual content, coarse language.

FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL

18A
Fri-Thurs 1:10, 3:50, 6:30, 9:10, 11:30. Sexual content.

CLAREVIEW 10 CINEMAS

4211-39TH AVENUE • 472-7600
SEX AND THE CITY 18A
Fri-Sun 12:20, 1:50, 3:30, 4:20, 5:10, 6:40, 7:50, 8:30, 9:50.
Mon-Thurs 3:30, 4:20, 5:10, 6:40, 7:50, 8:30, 9:50.

INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL

18A
Fri-Sun 12:50, 1:30, 2:00, 3:45, 4:30, 5:00, 6:45, 7:10, 8:00, 9:30, 9:55; Mon-Thurs 3:45, 4:30, 5:00, 6:45, 7:10, 8:00, 9:30, 9:55. No passes, Violence, highlighting scenes.

THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN

PG
Fri-Sun 12:30, 3:35, 6:35, 9:35; Mon-Thurs 3:35, 6:35, 9:35. Violence.

SPEED RACER

PG
Fri-Sun 1:00.
THE STRANGERS 14A
Fri-Sun 12:25, 2:40, 4:50, 7:30, 10:00. Mon-Thurs 4:50, 7:30, 10:00. Gory scenes, highlighting scenes.

SEX AND THE CITY

18A
Fri-Sun 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:45; Mon-Thurs 4:10, 7:00, 9:45. Not recommended for young children, violence.

WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS

PG
Fri-Sun 1:40, 4:00, 7:15, 9:40. Mon-Thurs 4:00, 7:15, 9:40. Not recommended for young children, coarse language.

WESTMOUNT CENTRE CINEMAS

111 AVENUE 6, GREAT ROAD • 455-8726
INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL PG
Fri 7:00, 9:50; Sat-Sun 12:35, 3:50, 7:00, 9:50; Mon-Thurs 7:00, 9:50. No passes, Violence, highlighting scenes.

IRON MAN

PG
Fri, Mon-Thurs 5:30, 9:30; Sat-Sun 12:45, 3:40, 6:50, 9:30. Not recommended for young children, violence.

SEX AND THE CITY

18A
Fri, Mon-Thurs 3:30, 9:35; Sat-Sun 12:35, 3:30, 4:40, 7:00, 9:30, 10:30. No passes, Violence, highlighting scenes.

THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN

PG
Fri, Mon-Thurs 4:40, 9:40; Sat-Sun 12:15, 3:15, 6:40, 9:40. Violence.

SCOTIABANK THEATRE

WEST EDMONTON HALL • 8882-170 STREET • 444-2400
THE STRANGERS 14A
Fri-Thurs 12:20, 3:30, 4:50, 7:30, 9:50. Gory scenes, highlighting scenes.

SEX AND THE CITY

18A
Fri-Thurs 12:10, 12:50, 2:15, 3:10, 4:10, 6:00, 7:00, 7:30, 9:30, 10:30, 10:45; Wed 12:10, 2:15, 3:10, 4:10, 6:00, 7:00, 7:30, 9:30, 10:30, 10:45. Sex & Strangers Screening Wed 1:00.

INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL

PG
Fri-Thurs 12:15, 1:00, 1:30, 3:15, 4:00, 4:40, 6:20, 7:10, 7:40, 9:20, 10:10, 10:50; Wed 12:15, 1:30, 3:15, 4:00, 4:40, 6:20, 7:10, 7:40, 9:20, 10:10, 10:50. Sex & Strangers Screening Wed 1:00. No passes, Violence, highlighting scenes.

CINEMA CITY MOVIES 12

130 AVENUE 8, 11TH STREET • 472-9779
WHERE IN THE WORLD IS OSAMA BIN LADEN? PG
Fri, Sat-Thurs 6:55, 9:15; Sat 6:55, 9:15, 11:25. Coarse language.

THE VISITOR

PG
Fri-Thurs 2:05, 4:55, 7:35, 10:00. Coarse language.

DECEPTION

14A
Fri, Sat-Thurs 1:20, 4:05, 6:50, 9:25; Sat 1:20, 4:05, 6:50, 9:25, 11:45. Sexual content.

BABY MAN

PG
Fri, Sat-Thurs 1:25, 4:10, 7:10, 9:35; Sat 1:25, 4:10, 7:10, 9:35, 11:55. Coarse language, mature themes.

88 MINUTES

14A
Fri, Sat-Thurs 1:40, 4:35, 7:25, 9:50; Sat 1:40, 4:35, 7:25, 9:50, 12:05. Violence.

HUM'S ISLAND

G
Fri, Sat-Thurs 1:55, 4:50, 7:40, 10:05; Sat 1:55, 4:50, 7:40, 10:05, 12:15. Gory scenes.

THE RUINS

18A
Fri, Sat-Thurs 1:55, 4:50, 7:40, 10:05; Sat 1:55, 4:50, 7:40, 10:05, 12:15. Gory scenes.

21

PG
Fri, Sat-Thurs 1:40, 4:00, 7:00, 9:40; Sat 1:15, 4:00, 7:00, 9:40, 12:05. Violence, mature themes.

DRILLBIT TAYLOR

PG
Fri-Thurs 12:30, 1:15, 2:20, 3:30, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20. Coarse language.

DR. SEUSS' HORTON HEARS A WHOLE

G
Fri 1:35, 4:30, 7:20.
COLLEGE ROAD TRIP G
Fri, Sat-Sun 2:00, 4:40, 7:30, 9:35; Sat 2:00, 4:40, 7:30, 9:35, 11:35.

10,000 B.C.

PG
Fri, Sat-Thurs 1:40, 4:20, 7:15, 9:45; Sat 1:45, 4:20, 7:15, 9:45, 12:05.

THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES

PG
Fri-Thurs 1:10, 4:25. Highlighting scenes.

FOOD'S GOLF

PG
Fri, Sat-Thurs 9:55, Sat 9:55, 12:15. Violence.

THE BUCKLE UP

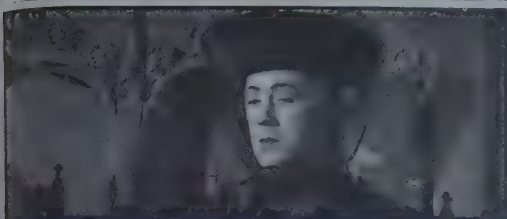
PG
Fri, Sat-Thurs 9:30, Sat 9:30, 11:40. Coarse language.

GALAXY CINEMAS

2020 SHERWOOD DR., SHERWOOD PARK • 416-0150
THE STRANGERS 14A
Fri 4:40, 7:40, 10:00; Sat-Sun 3:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:00; Mon-Thurs 7:40, 10:00. Gory scenes, highlighting scenes.

SEX AND THE CITY

18A
Fri 3:30, 4:30, 6:50, 8:00, 10:10; Sat-Sun 12:15, 1:00, 3:30, 4:30, 6:50, 8



MOVIES • OPENING THIS WEEK

AS YOU LIKE IT

Byrce Dallas Howard, Romola Garai, Kevin Kline, Adrian Lester, and Alfred Molina star in *Much Ado About Nothing* director Kenneth Branagh's adaptation of Shakespeare's classic comedy about gender-confused lovers in exile in the Forest of Arden—here transplanted to 19th-century Japan. *Metro Cinema*; Thu, May 29 (8pm)

DREAMSPEAKERS FILM FESTIVAL

A collection of films addressing the concerns of indigenous peoples around the globe. This year's opening-night gala on June 4 features *Older Than America* (dir: Georgina Lightning) and *Honor Thy Father* (dir: Gerald Auger). Metro Cinema: Wed-Sat, June 4-7 (7pm)

KIND HEARTS AND CORONETS

HDennis Price, Valerie Hobson, Joan Greenwood, and eight versions of Alec Guinness star in *The School for Scoundrels* director Robert Hamer's classic 1949 black comedy about a young man who systematically murders the eight heirs who stand between

cycling race conducted on the cobblestone streets on the outskirts of Paris. *Metro Cinema: Mon, June 2 (7:30pm)*

THE UNFORESEEN

Director Laura Dunn's acclaimed documentary about the conflict that arises between an ambitious Texas land developer and the environmentally-minded Austin community who fears that his latest project will threaten a precious limestone aquifer and a spring-fed swimming hole. Produced by Terrence Mallick and Robert Redford. Screening with Edmonton filmmaker Colleen MacIsaac's Fri-Sun, Tue. May 30-June 1, June 3 (7 & 9pm)

MOVIES • ALSO PLAYING

INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL

Steven Spielberg stages the big action sequences with as much verve as ever, but sadly, the story lacks the snap of Indy's bullwhip. There's just no reason for this movie to exist, no story that's dying to be told. Even Cate Blanchett seems to be going through the motions.

SON OF RAMBOW

This British charmer about two schoolboys who decide to film their own homemade version of Sylvester Stallone's *First Blood* expresses a childlike zest for old-fashioned moviemaking that not even the Indiana Jones sequel can match. Spielberg and Lucas, are you taking notes?

★★★★☆

THE STONE ANGEL

This surprisingly accomplished film adaptation of the CanLit staple dispenses with almost all of Margaret Laurence's heavy-handed wallows in questions of God and faith—and good riddance!—and instead concentrates on the moving family drama at its core. Ellen Burstyn and Christine Horne match up well as Hagar Shipley

★★★★☆

FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL

This latest romantic comedy from those overworked gagsters in the Judd Apatow factory is as full of laughs and male full-frontal nudity as its predecessors. Worth the price of admission solely for Jason Segel's teary-eyed rendition of the theme from *The Muppet Show*.

FUGITIVE PIECES

This lethally dull adaptation of Anne Michaels' novel is exactly the kind of lifeless drama that gives Canadian cinema a bad name. Snoozy in the extreme.

★☆☆☆☆

HAROLD & KUMAR ESCAPE FROM GUANTANAMO BAY

Crude, raunchy, uneven, but a lot cleverer than it looks: this comic odyssey argues rousingly for an America where you're judged not by the colour of your skin, but by the content of your bong.

★★★★☆

IRON MAN

Robert Downey Jr., that indestructible superhero among Hollywood actors, has found the role he was born to play: an alcoholic playboy genius who flies around the globe spreading peace (but causing massive explosions). This is the best comic-book adaptation since *Superman*.

★★★★★

MADE OF HONOR

This by-the-numbers romantic comedy starring Patrick Dempsey is... well, McDreamy. And you know what? We're docking it half a star just for that idiotic title.

★☆☆☆☆

SPEED RACER

The most visually adventurous movie of the year—and perhaps the least intellectually stimulating. But those candy colours sure are shiny and pretty!

★★★★☆

THEN SHE FOUND ME

The directorial debut of former sitcom star Helen Hunt is a mixed bag: strong contributions from Bette Midler and Colin Firth, but drab visuals and a bloodless lead performance from Hunt herself. Looks like we're going to have to split those stars right up the middle.

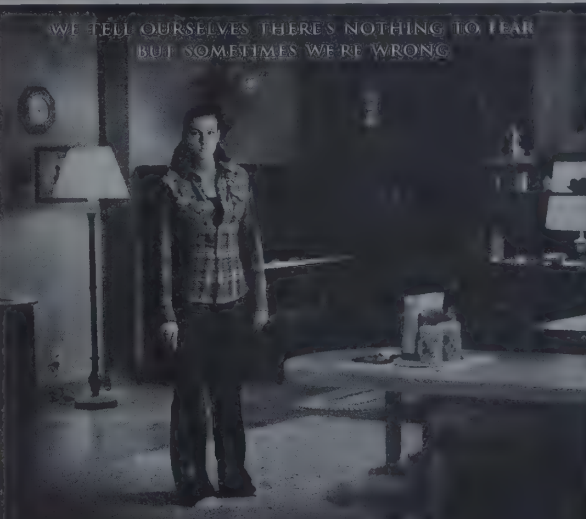
WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS...

No surprises here: this Cameron Diaz/Ashton Kutcher romcom is every bit as stupid and generic as it looks.

★☆☆☆☆

THE STRANGERS

WE TELL OURSELVES THERE'S NOTHING TO FEAR
BUT SOMETIMES WE'RE WRONG



LIV TYLER SCOTT SPEEDMAN

the strangers

INSPIRED BY TRUE EVENTS

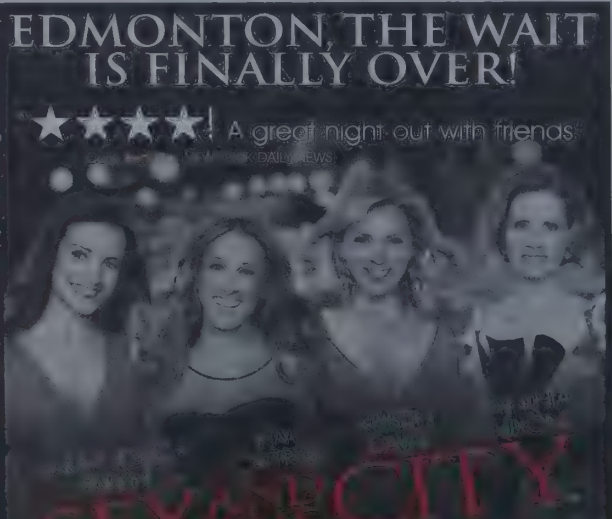
ROGUE PICTURES AND INTERPRET PICTURES PRESENT A VERDANT ENTERTAINMENT / MANDATE PICTURES PRODUCTION "THE STRANGERS" LIV TYLER SCOTT SPEEDMAN
WRITTEN BY TOMANDANOVY DIRECTED BY KELLY MONROE JOE DIANE SONNY MALLHI TREVOR MACY MARC D. EVANS COSTUME DESIGNER DOUG DAVIDSON BOY LEE NATHAN KAHANE
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ROBERT BROWN PRODUCED BY BRIAN BERTLAND
CASTING BY JENNIFER COOPER EDITOR GARY SOBERA
www.thestrangermovie.com www.alliancefilms.com

CHELSEA ENTERTAINMENT SOUTH EDMONTON COMMON •	CHELSEA ENTERTAINMENT SCOTIA BANK THEATRE NORTH EDMONTON •	CHELSEA ENTERTAINMENT GALAXY 10 SHERWOOD PARK •	EMPIRE THEATRES CITY CENTRE 9 •	EMPIRE THEATRES CLAREVIEW 10 •
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Check Theatre Directory or www.alliancefilms.com for showtimes

EDMONTON, THE WAIT IS FINALLY OVER!

★★★★★! A great night-out with friends!
(as ranked by DAILY NEWS)



SEX AND THE CITY

STARTS TONIGHT IN SELECT THEATRES AT 10PM!

CHELSEA ENTERTAINMENT SOUTH EDMONTON COMMON •	CHELSEA ENTERTAINMENT SCOTIA BANK THEATRE NORTH EDMONTON •	CHELSEA ENTERTAINMENT GALAXY 10 SHERWOOD PARK •	EMPIRE THEATRES CITY CENTRE 9 •	EMPIRE THEATRES CLAREVIEW 10 •
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Check Theatre Directory or www.alliancefilms.com for showtimes

STARTS TOMORROW AT THESE ADDITIONAL THEATRES!

EMPIRE THEATRES WESTMOUNT CENTRE •	ST ALBERT GRANDIN THEATRE •	FORT SASKATCHEWAN CENTRIUM •	MAGIC LANTERN DUGGAN CARRAGE •	MAGIC LANTERN PARKLAND 7 SHERWOOD PARK •
CHELSEA ENTERTAINMENT GALAXY 10 SHERWOOD PARK •	LEGG SALEY •	WETASKIWIN CINEMA •	CARDUIN THEATRE •	

ALLIANCE FILMS

“DO YOU RISK LOSING, OR ADJUSTING, OR MUTATING THIS ONE GOOD THING YOU HAVE NOW IN ORDER TO EXPLORE SOMETHING MYSTERIOUS AND UNKNOWN THAT MAY NOT WORK OUT AT ALL?” —PLAYWRIGHT DAVID BELKE, ON TAKING ROMANTIC RISKS WITH FRIENDS

THEATRE • PREVIEW • BY RENATO PAGNANI | 518 words

Dear Pal: I Love You

DAVID BELKE'S CLASSIC BETWEEN YOURSELF AND ME ASKS A TIMELESS QUESTION: IF GOOD FRIENDS FALL IN LOVE, CAN THEY STILL BE FRIENDS?

BETWEEN YOURSELF AND ME

Directed by John Hudson. Written by David Belke. Starring: Matusha Gergis, Garrett Ross, Vanessa Sabourin, and George Szilagyi. May 29-June 15, Varcona Theatre (10329 83 Ave.). Tickets available through TIX on the Square (470-1751/tixonthesquare.ca) or by calling Shadow Theatre at 434-5564.

"Love is a mysterious fig."

At least this is the deep wisdom that Paul Rudd's character imparts to Steve Carell in *The 40-Year-Old Virgin*. It's nonsense, sure, but the line is funny because it encapsulates more about "love" than any Hallmark card or biblical passage can.

Local playwright David Belke would agree, it seems. Leveraging a similar brand of good-natured comedy is Belke's *Between Yourself and Me*, returning to the stage for the first time since its debut at the Fringe in 2001.

After a Shadow Theatre season of dark work, says Belke, it is the perfect note to end on.

"I think [artistic director John Hudson] was looking for a happy comedy to round out the Shadow Theatre season," says Belke. "We've done a lot of plays about death this year, so I think having a play about love and romance is a nice way to sweeten the seasonal load a bit."

Between Yourself and Me centers around two characters, Amy and Steven, whom Edmonton theatre-goers should be familiar with: they've been in two other Belke plays, appearing first in *The Red King's Dream*, then returning in *The Raven* and the *Writing Desk*, which continues



The cookie, the way it crumbles | Love is exciting, friendship is... familiar. Gergis, Ross, and Sabourin discuss. PHOTO SUPPLIED

where *Between Yourself and Me* left off. Why the attachment?

"The sentimental reason is that I just like these characters," says Belke. "They're like friends now. They balance and contrast each other so well. They are unique and complex characters and I think they reflect certain qualities that we all share."

The two friends live in the same apartment complex. Amy, a flighty elementary school music teacher who sings jazz on the side, decides to

help the bookish Steven improve his romantic life, and sets him up on a series of blind dates, only to discover she has her own conflicting feelings for him.

"After remounting *The Red King's Dream*, I thought there was a lot more left to explore with these characters," Belke continues. "Now that Steven has changed, Steven and Amy's relationship has changed, and this led to the writing of *Between Yourself and Me*. I had set up a situ-

ation where this long, stable, protective friendship has suddenly changed on one side, and I thought it would be worthwhile to explore how those changes the other party involved."

Two friends falling in love with each other is the type of situation that seems less like Hollywood fiction and more like real life to Belke. But, he says, crossing that line requires a huge leap of faith in pursuit of results that are not guaranteed.

"There is one big question," Belke

elaborates. "Do you risk losing, or adjusting, or mutating this really good thing that you have now in order to explore something mysterious and unknown that could work out or may not work out at all?"

"In some ways, all three of these plays are about dealing with the changes in your life that love and attraction force on you. You have no choice but to adapt to what life throws at you—even if it's a few romantic curveballs."

ARTS NEWS • NOTABLE HAPPENINGS FROM THE THEATRE TO THE GALLERY

OPPRESSION!

Ministry Of Love: An Adaptation of George Orwell's 1984

So you think you're oppressed? What with the "Boom" and all the cash you're spending on utilities while watching your environment go to hell in a handbasket? Is there really any room for that whole Love thing? The premiere production of Theatre Rien-Pantoute might shed a little insight. The company has adapted Orwell's tale of dystopian society with a feminine perspective, and sprinkles of August Boal's Theatre of the Oppressed—where the audience can contribute to the world of the play, and question the society therein. C'mon, go poke Big B. It'll be fun!

PREGGERS!

Baby

As if pregnancy itself weren't just darn fun enough, now there's a musical about it. Well, it's an '80s musical about three couples and their coping mechanisms over the challenging nine-month—ahem—stretch. There's the athletic couple who have finally successfully conceived, a University pair who just moved in together a second ago and got knocked up, and an aging mother who's fourth pregnancy absolutely thrills her husband, but not her. ELOPE's Marie Nychka and Randy Mueller team to mount the original Broadway hit at the Westbury Theatre (Transalta Arts Barns) tonight through June 7.

NEXTNEXT!

NextFest

Is the Fringe making you feel cynical? Is it starting to feel like a summertime excuse for Whyte Avenue bars to run ridiculous drink specials, and for Die-Nasty to debauch every night after beer-garden tomfoolery? Well, maybe NextFest will be a festival more to your liking. The up-and-comers of the theatre and arts communities rally again to show off their crazy-cool ideas pet projects. The opening visual arts gala at the ARtery this Saturday pre-dates the rest of the Fest (June 5-15) by a few days, but it'll be a night of live performances, beats, and installations by Krystin Clarke and Reginald Gillett.



50 Years Later | George Orwell's 1984 is still kicking around. In adapted stage-form, of course. Check out Ministry of Love at the PCL Studio starting Wednesday. PHOTO SUPPLIED

VISUAL ARTS • PRINTMAKING AT ITS PINNACLE | 799 words

Prints Charming



ARTBOX MANDY ESPEZAL & JILL STANTON
OUR CRITICS ARE KNOCKED
ON THEIR RESPECTIVE
WOODBLOCKS BY AN
EXHIBITION OF JAPANESE
PRINTS

This week Jill and Mandy fall all over themselves trying to describe the beauty of *Against The Grain: Japanese Woodblock Prints*, in a blatant attempt to get you off and running to see it for yourself.

Jill: Can I say first off that it is sort of a tragedy that these works, tucked away at the University of Alberta Museum Gallery at TELUS Centre, will probably be overlooked by a great majority of the public, even more so than a normal art show. This venue is highly unknown (neither of us had ever been there either, right Mandy?) and it makes me sad to think that not everyone in Edmonton will go and see these insanely beautiful and skillful prints. That said, Edmonton, I think it is your civic and cultural duty to pay these prints a visit.

Mandy: Right-oh. There are some really amazing pieces being exhibited. I was blown away by the quality and the sheer specialness of them all. It's like looking at these gems that have been tucked away in some old grandma's shoe box for safety, and she has just poured them out all over the kitchen table for the kids to



Draw Your What | But Pitt shows off his guns in this wholesome movie. PHOTO SUPPLIED

see.

Jill: I am doing a lot of woodblock cutting in my own work right now, and believe me when I say I show like this one makes me simultaneously never want to cut wood again (because how can I possibly get close to these images?), and have also inspired me to spend long hours in the studio so that I can painstakingly attempt to mimic some of the perfect gradation of shadows, the incredible amount of detail, the unbelievably well-thought-out composition, and the way that these prints tell stories about nature and humans in such a natural, quiet way. I really feel for these prints. It is definitely an exhibit that warrants several visits to really be able to ingest and soak up all that the works have to offer.

Mandy: That's just it, isn't it? You look at these images, and yes, ridiculous amounts of skill all over the place; but what you get to see is those gentle, suggested narratives, and some surprising humor and quirk-

ness. There's just this unfamiliar reverence that comes through, like you know that whoever created any individual picture wanted so much to share how they loved that garden, or how important they felt it was to tell the story of this person. I think that's partly how, even when the images date back hundreds of years, they are still able to be appreciated beyond being a piece of antiquity or history.

Jill: Japanese prints (and print-

artists) have been celebrated for centuries due to their intense understanding of composition and colour. Modern painters have looked to their use of pattern and composition to form some of the most important recent movements in art. These are important pieces of art, people! For me, even as a printmaker who often spends a lot of time trying to "figure ■ piece out"—that is, trying to figure out exactly how it is made, the sequence of printings, etc.—I found

myself simply enjoying the complex simplicity of these things. I honestly have no idea how these guys did what they did. Somehow the works seem to transcend the syntax of "modern" woodcutting, and simply become breathtaking memories of mountains, or a Japanese garden in the rain, or a quiet cityscape.

Mandy: It's hard to even try to view them as one would a "regular" image, they are so removed from what we, or at least, I am used to seeing in galleries, both commercial and public. It's like being confronted with something just without any fault. How do you evaluate it? You can't really, you just look and take it in and be overwhelmed. I don't know if there is much to be said other than it is one of the best exhibits I have seen, and I hope that it is appreciated and utilized by everyone.

Jill: Yes, this is the key. Everybody go and see it! We are really not doing them justice by our stumbling and awkward descriptions of such beauty. This is a case where you really have to see these things in person. Who knows, you might even get really inspired and take up a wood blocking habit, or even grab the next cheap flight to Japan!

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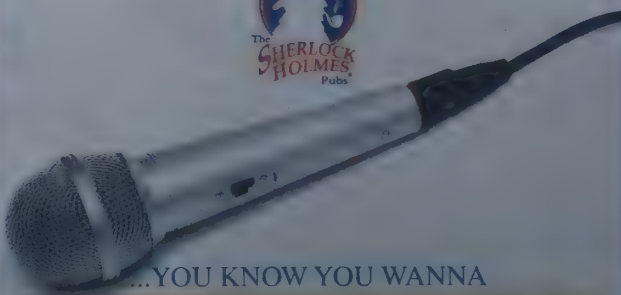
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Preview:
May 28

Varscona Theatre
10329-83 Avenue

Tickets:
\$34-\$55

or
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web



EXHIBITS

ALLIED ARTS COUNCIL 455 KING ST., SPRUCE GROVE.
962-0664 June 6 "Third Annual Decadent Dessert Gala." Includes a silent auction of dessert. Proceeds fund ongoing children's art programs. Tickets \$20. Info: www.alliedartscouncil.com.

ALBERTA CRAFT COUNCIL 10186-106 ST., 488-6611 EXT. 221. Until May 31 "Alberta is My Home," functional pottery works by Sam Uhlrich. JUN 7-JUL 13 "Coming Up Next" features the work of emerging artists who are within the first five years of their career or in the final year of their formal education. Part of NextFest. Info: www.albertacraft.ca.

AGNES BUGERA GALLERY 12310 ASPER AVE. Hours: Tues-Sat 10 am-5 pm.

A.J. OTTEWELL ARTS CENTRE 590 BROADMOOR BLVD. SHERWOOD PARK. 449-4443 Info: Sonia, 922-3179.

THE ARTERY 9535 ASPER AVE. Hours: Tue-5:30 pm, or by appointment. Info: theartery@telus.net.

ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA ENTERPRISE SQUARE, #100, 10230 ASPER AVE. 422-6223 Until JUN 6 "Projections," projection art from 1969-1989 featuring works by Michael Snow, David Horfor, and Ian Carr-Harris. "The Reflecting Pool" by Bill Viola and "Ray Material OK OK OK" by Bruce Nauman. Until AUG 10 "Drawn from the Past: The Portraits and Practice of Nicholas de Gruyten" looks at one of western Canada's most important historical artists. Hours: Mon-Fri 10:30 am-5 pm. Tue-Sat 10 am-5 pm. Sun 11 am-5 pm. Info: www.artgalleryalberta.com.

ARTS HUB STUDIO GALLERY 3RD FL., 10217-106 ST. 439-9532 Until JUN 2 "Balance" with Craig Talbot and Chrissy Cheung. Hours: Tue-5:30 pm, or by appointment. Info: www.artshab.com.

BEARCLAW GALLERY 10403-124 ST. 482-1204 Info: bearclawgallery.com.

BLUE CURVE GALLERY GLENROSE REHABILITATION HOSPITAL, 10220-110 AVE. Hours: Mon-Fri 8 am-2 pm.

CABINET GALLERY NOKOMI'S CLOTHING, 10318-82 AVE. Info: www.instituteparachute.ca.

THE CARROT COMPANY ARTS COFFEE HOUSE 9351-108 AVE. 471-1580 "The Rescue," installation by glass artist Keith Walker. Info: www.thecarrot.ca.

CENTRE D'ARTS VISUELS DE L'ALBERTA 9103-95 AVE. 461-3427 Until JUN 4 "Group Show," featuring a selection of works among the 140 different artists members of this gallery. Info: 461-3427.

CHRISTIE BERGSTROM'S RED GALLERY 867-82 AVE. 439-8210 "Mother and Child," by Christie Bergstrom. Hours: Mon-Fri 11 am-5 pm.

DOUGLAS UDELL GALLERY 10332-124 ST. 488-4445 Hours: Tue-Fri 9:30 am-5:30 pm. Info: douglasudellgallery.com.

ELECTRUM DESIGN STUDIO 12419 STONY PLAIN RD. 482-1402 New works from various artists. Info: www.waynemackenziegallery.com.

EXTENSION CENTRE GALLERY MAIN FLOOR ATRIUM, ENTERPRISE SQUARE, 10230 ASPER AVE. Hours: Daily 7 am-11 pm. Info: www.extension.alberta.ca.

FAB GALLERY 1-FINE ARTS BUILDING, 106 CAMPUS UEL MAY 11 "Seeing Through Modernism: Edmonton 1970-1985" features over 30 Modernist artists. Hours: Tues-Fri 10 am-5 pm. Sat 12-5 pm.

FRINGE GALLERY 10516 WHITE AVE. 432-0240 Until MAY 31 "Unfinished" by Christine Wallerstein, acrylics on canvas. Info: www.paintspol.ca.

FRONT GALLERY 1232 ASPER AVE. 488-2952 Various paintings depicting birds by Jeff Sylvestre. Info: 488-2952.

GALLERY AT MILLNER STATION, 1 MILLER LIBRARY, 87 CHURCHILL SQUARE UNTIL JUN 25 "Square With It" hand printed monotypes by Val Solash. Info: 496-7030.

HARCOURT HOUSE GALLERY 3RD FL., 10215-112 ST. 426-4180 May 29-June 14 "Art from the Heart" featuring art by local adults with developmental disabilities. Info: www.harcourthouse.ab.ca.

JEFF ALLEN GALLERY STRATHCONA SENIORS CENTRE, 10831 UNIVERSITY AVE. 439-5807 Until MAY 29 "Burst of Colour" by various artists. June 2-26 "Joanna Wray and Students" featuring various paintings. Hours: Mon-Thu, 9 am-4 pm.

JOHNSON GALLERY 771-85 ST. 465-6771 Edmonton oil painters working in studio throughout the season. Artists featured include Susan Abma, Susan Box, Shari Honey, David Brooks, Margaret Klappstein, Tracy Mardon, Anne McCormick, and Cindy Revell. Info: susanabma.com.

LANDO GALLERY 11130-105 AVE. 990-1161 Hours: Mon-Fri 10 am-5:30 pm. Sat 10 am-4:30 pm. Info: www.landogallery.com.

LATITUDE 53 10240-106 ST. 423-5553 Hours: Tue-Fri 10 am-6 pm. Sat 12-5 pm. Info: www.latitude53.org.

LOFT GALLERY A.J. OTTEWELL CENTRE, 590 BROADMOOR BLVD. SHERWOOD PARK. 449-4481 Until MAY 31 New works by artists Anne McCartney, Audrey Josephson, Dorothy Burgess, Brenda Doris, Desirée Plews, Cornelia Martin-Hansen, Barbara Carle-Kowalewski, and Ruth Campbell. Hours: Thurs 5-9 pm, and Sat 10 am-5 pm (except holiday weekends). Info: Kaye 467-4481.

MACEWAN CENTRE FOR THE ARTS 10045-156 ST. Hours: Mon-Fri 10 am-8 pm. Sat-Sun 12-5 pm.

MANDOLIN BOOKS 6419-112 AVE. 479-4050

MCULLLEN GALLERY 8440-112 ST., U OF A HOSPITAL, 407-7152 Until JUN 15 "Extraordinary Places: Canada's

UNESCO World Heritage Sites," fibre artists Donna Clement and Lesley Turner examine UNESCO sites in Canada. Hours: Mon-Fri 10 am-8 pm. Sat-Sun noon-6 pm. Admission free.

NINA HAGGERTY CENTRE 9704-111 AVE. 474-7611 JUN 2-13 "Celebration of Abilities" 5th annual exhibit from Alberta Artists with Brain Injuries Society. Studio hours: Mon-Fri 10 am-2 pm. Gallery hours: Mon, Wed & Fri 9:30 am-2:30 pm. Tue & Thu 9:30 am-4 pm & 6-8 pm. Info: www.ninahaggertyart.ca.

NORTH EDMONTON SCULPTURE WORKSHOP 10546-115 ST. 482-2685 Daytime viewing by appointment: 482-2685.

OUT OF THE FIRE STUDIO 12214 ASPER AVE. 378-0240 Paintings of female nudes by Oksana Zhelisko. Info: www.outoffirestudio.com.

PETER ROBERTSON GALLERY 10183-112 ST. 455-7479 MAY 31-JUN 25 "Off the Grid." New works by Saskatoon painter Jonathan Forest. Hours: Tue-Sat 10 am-5:30 pm. Info: www.peterrobertsongallery.com.

PICTURE THIS GALLERY 959 GRIZIE RD. SHERWOOD PARK. 467-3038 Info: www.picturethisgallery.com.

PLANET Z DESIGN CENTRE 10055-80 AVE. 428-3499 Ongoing displays include functional sculpture and jewelry by Sandra Sing Fernandes, metal sculpture by Linda Maines and Bianca Khan, and paintings by Quentin Maki and Tim Redner.

PORTAL GALLERY #300, 9414-91 ST. 702-7522 Hours: Tue-Fri 12-8 pm. Sat 12-7 pm. Info: www.theportalgallery.com.

PROFILES PUBLIC ART GALLERY 19 PERROW ST. ALBERTA, 460-4310 MAY 29 "Day," creating art and figures with clay. June 5-28 "Contingencies" by Tammy Salzl. A challenging look at suburbia in a mixed media exhibition. Info: 460-4310.

ROWLES & CO. LTD. MEZZANINE LEVEL, 10130-103 ST. 426-4035 Info: www.rowles.ca.

SCOTT GALLERY 10411-124 ST. 488-3619 Hours: Tues-Sat 10 am-5 pm. Info: www.scottgallery.com.

SCULPTURE STUDIO & GALLERY SHERWOOD PARK, 662-4160 Figurative and abstract sculpture by Horst D. Info: www.horst-sculpture.ca.

SELFRIDGE POTTERY STUDIO 9844-88 AVE. 439-9296 Hours: 11 am-5 pm. Info: www.selfridgepottery.com.

SNAP GALLERY SOCIETY OF NORTHERN ALBERTA PRINT ARTISTS 10309-91 ST. 423-1492 Hours: Tue-Sat 12-5 pm. Info: snapartists.com.

SPRUCES GROVE ART GALLERY 420 KING STREET. 962-0664 Until JUN 12 Annual Juried Active Members Show. Hours: Mon-Thu 10 am-5 pm. Fri-Sat 10 am-5 pm.

STUDIO GALLERY 11 PERROW ST. ALBERTA, 460-5993 Until MAY 31 "Skies, Stubble, and Sloughs" by Bruce Thompson. June 5-28 "Through Our Eyes" featuring pieces by multimedia artists Elaine Tweedy and Donna Marthysyn Shynka. Hours: Thu 12-8 pm, Fri 10 am-6 pm, Sat 10 am-5 pm.

TELUUS WORLD OF SCIENCE 10211-142 ST. 451-3344 Permanent exhibits include The Body Fantastic, Mystery Avenue, The Greens' House, Space Place.

Discoveryland, and Dinodino in the Explorer Gallery. Synchro Science Stage features science demos, Cryogenics, Electricity, and What Puts The Fizz in Soda Pop? Info: 451-3344, www.odyssey.com.

TU VAL GALLERY 10718-124 ST. 452-9652 Info: www.tuvalgallery.ca.

URBAN ROOTS 10218-82 AVE. 438-7978 Until MAY 31 "Two Artists, Two Visions," sculptures by Horst Dill and paintings by Paddy Lamb. Hours: Wed-Sat 12-4 pm. Info: 438-7978.

VAALA GALLERY VASSAL ARTS ALBERTA ASSOCIATION 3RD FL., 10215-112 ST. 423-1731 "Getting Your Artwork Out There: Art Business & Promotion," comprehensive 3-hour workshop on how to promote your work. Tickets: \$40 at 421-1731. Hours: Mon-Fri 10 am-4 pm. Sat 12-4 pm.

WEST END GALLERY 12018 ASPER AVE. 488-4892 Hours: Tue-Sat 10 am-5 pm. Info: www.westendgalleryltd.com.

WORKS GALLERY #700, 10225-100 AVE. 426-2122 Hours: Mon-Fri 12-5 pm. Info: www.works.ab.ca.

ZIEGLER HUGHES GALLERY & SERENDIPITY FRAMING 9860-90 AVE. 433-0380 Andean/Mexican jewelry and art by Canadian and Mexican artists. Hours: Tue-Wed 10 am-6 pm, Thu-Fri 10 am-8 pm, Sat noon-8 pm, Sun-Mon noon-5 pm.

ZOCALO 10826-95 ST. 428-0754 International crafts, artwork, and tropical flowers. Hours: Mon-Wed & Fri 10-6 pm, Thu 10-9 pm, Sat 9-5 pm, Sun 12-5 pm.

#118, PRINCE OF WALES ARMOURIES HERITAGE CENTRE, 10440-108 AVE. Hours: Weekdays, 10 am-4 pm.

MUSEUM HERITAGE #5 ST. ALBERTA, 459-1528 Hours: Mon-Sat, 10 am-5 pm & Sun, 1-5 pm. Admission by donation, suggested donation \$2.

PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF ALBERTA 8555 ROPER RD. 427-1750 Until SEP 6, "Les Francophones of Alberta: Courage et Détermination" tells the history of Francophones in Alberta through archival records. Hours: Tues-Sat 9am-4:30pm, Wed 9am-9pm.

ROYAL ALBERTA MUSEUM 12845-102 AVE. 493-9100 Hours: Mon-Sun, 9am-5pm. Info: www.royalalbertamuseum.ca.

STRATHCONA COUNTY MUSEUM & ARCHIVES 913 ASH ST. SHERWOOD PARK. 476-8189 Hours: Mon-Fri 10 am-4 pm. Info: www.strathcona.museum.ca.

DANCE

ART YU, THERAPY JUN 6-7, 8 PM. THE LANDING PAD, 10293-101 ST. Presented by Mike Zero Dance. Includes multimedia dance of artists. Tickets: \$12 at the door.

DANCE INNER CITY MAY 31, 7 PM & 7 PM. LOUISE MCKINNEY RIVERFORD PARK. Edmonton's first intercultural music and dance festival. Performances by Wozeo African Dance and Drummers, Mike Zero Dance, and more. Free admission, bring your own seating.

DANCE OF UNIVERSAL PEACE 2ND & 4TH THY EVERY MONTH, 7:30 PM. RIVERDALE HALL, 9231-100 AVE. Info: 461-1285.

HOT LATIN GROOVE MAY 30, 8:30 PM. EDMONTON EVENT CENTRE. Featuring music by "America Rosa" and DJs. Dance lessons from 9:30-10:30 pm. Tickets: \$20 at the door.

JIVE AND SWING MAY 31, 7 PM & 7 PM. GRANT MACWANE COLLEGE. Level 1 swing/jive classes through MacWane. \$25 per person must be registered with a partner. Info: 497-4303.

RODA DE CAPOEIRA SATURDAYS, 7-11 PM. CAPOEIRA ACADEMY, 10540 ASPER AVE. 709-3504 A free performance of Capoeira, a Brazilian mix of dance, martial arts and music, invented by African slaves. Info: www.capoeiramontreal.ca.

TWO STEP COUNTRY DANCE JUN 1, 1:30 PM. GRANT MACWANE COLLEGE. Workshop on country dance sponsored by Grant MacWane College. Must have a partner. \$25 to register, call 497-4303.

SALSALINA MAY 31, 8 PM. WELLINGTON COMMUNITY HALL, 13440-132 ST. Evening featuring some of Edmonton's salsa stars. Salsa dancing will also be taught. Tickets: \$15 at the door.

THEATRE

BABY MAY 29-JUN 1 & JUN 5-7:30 PM. TRANSLATA ARTS BARN. A musical about three couples dealing with pregnancy. Tickets: \$25 at TIX.

BETWEEN YOURSELF AND ME MAY 29-JUN 15, 8 PM. VARSONA THEATRE, 10219-83 AVE. Exploring the relationship between 2 friends as one sets the other on a series of disastrous dates. Tickets: \$22, \$19 student/senior at the door.

BE WELL AND PROSPER, MY BELOVED UKRAINE MAY 29, 8 PM. ST. BASIL'S CULTURAL CENTRE, 10819-71 AVE. One-man play commemorating the Ukrainian famine/Genocide of 1932-1933. Tickets: \$10 at TIX.

A BUDDY HOLLY BIRTHDAY BASH UNTIL JUN 8, JUBILATIONS DINNER THEATRE, WEM. Tribute in the beginnings of rock and roll and Buddy Holly. Info: 484-2424.

A HILARIOUS MURDER MYSTERY JUN 6, 7 PM. LA BOHEME, 6427-112 AVE. Get involved with solving a murder case. Twists, turns, and mayhem. Three course dinner included. Tickets: \$85 at 474-5953.

MINISTRY OF LOVE: AN ADAPTATION OF GEORGE ORWELL'S 1984 JUN 11-15, 7:30 PM. TRANSLATA ARTS BARN. Centres on a forbidden love between 2 people forced to politically and emotionally betray each other in an oppressive society. Tickets: \$14/12 student/senior.

AO SUSANNAI MAY 31, 11 PM. VARSONA THEATRE, 10219-83 AVE. A Euro-style variety spectacle featuring Susanne Patchouli and Eros. Tickets at the door.

RAPID FIRE THEATRE BEVERLY FRI & SAT, 11 PM. VARSONA THEATRE, 10219-83 AVE. 448-0695 TheatreSports Fridays, Chimprovs Saturdays. \$10 at the door. Info: www.rapid-firetheatre.com.

WILKOMMEN IN SPREEPARK MAY 22-24, 7:30 PM. TRANSLATA ARTS BARN. Musical following two teenage boys as they break into the Spreepark and save the world from an evil clown. Tickets: \$15 at TIX.

MUSEUMS

ALBERTA AVIATION MUSEUM 11410 KINGSWAY AVE. 451-1175 Edmonton bush pilot display in WWII-era double-wing, double-long hangar. Hours: Daily, 10 am-4 pm.

CANADIAN PETROLEUM DISCOVERY CENTRE LEUC #1 DISCOVERY WELL, LEUC. Guided tours, tailored education programs for classes K-12, safety courses and industry training, campground, library, and historical archives. Info: 1-866-987-4323 or www.p-c-pic.org.

CITY OF EDMONTON ARCHIVES 10440-108 AVE. 496-8770 Over 50,000 catalogued photographs and slides from the 1880s to the present. Two display galleries. Free admission. Hours: Weekdays 8:30 am-4:30 pm.

JOHN WALTER MUSEUM 10661-91A AVE. 496-8787 Admission free, donations gladly accepted. Info: www.edmonton.ca/JohnWalter

LOYAL EDMONTON REGIMENT MILITARY MUSEUM

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SEX • ADVICE 11719 words

Masturbating Man: Marriage Material?



SAVAGE LOVE DAN SAVAGE
IF YOU CAN'T EXPLAIN TO YOUR WIFE WHY YOU PREFER YOUR RIGHT HAND TO HER, A DIVORCE IS INEVITABLE

I'm a straight male and I love my fiancée. She's perfect. But while I am physically attracted to her, I find myself masturbating rather than having sex with her. She knows, but we don't talk about it—we can't—and recently she walked in on me, and it was very awkward. I put it away and she pretended she didn't see.

At first I just assumed I was masturbating because I was prone to romantic "dry spells" and was used to taking care of things myself. But at this point, she's sleeping in the other room and I'm quietly jerking it, knowing that I could have her. We don't have sex much and I think it's hurting our relationship.

Right Handed Man

If you and the fiancée are too embarrassed, immature, or ashamed to discuss the state of your sex lives—your preference for your right hand, your lack of a strong sexual connection, what she saw and when she saw it—then you're not ready for marriage, RHM. Period. If you can't communicate openly and successfully about sex now, when you're merely engaged, you're going to find these issues impossible to confront after marriage permanently raises the stakes. All you risk now is a relatively uncomplicated, if emotionally traumatic, end to an engagement. After marriage, you're both going to be acutely aware that a Big Talk about your sex life carries the risk of a big, messy, humiliating divorce.

Oh, and speaking of poor communication skills: I couldn't help but notice that you neglected to ask me a single question. You gave me the facts—you could have her, but you're jerking it; she's aware of it, but you don't talk about it—but you didn't ask for help, advice, or anything at all. So I'm guessing that you're the one with communication issues here, RHM, not your fiancée.

And what's with the passive voice? You "find [yourself] masturbating." How does that work exactly? You jump into a time machine, travel to

your bathroom an hour in the future, and discover your future self jerking it? Sorry, RHM, but masturbation isn't something that happens to you—it's not a tax audit or a flat tire or a meteor strike. It's something you decide to do.

And here's why you're deciding to masturbate when you could be banging away at the fiancée: You're an insecure bag of slop. When you masturbate, RHM, you're in total control. You can fantasize about whatever you like and, just as importantly, you don't have to take any responsibility for your partner's pleasure, nor do you have to risk failure. Masturbation allows you to have orgasms free of any performance anxiety—after all, only schizophrenics experience performance anxiety when they jerk it.

Here's what you need to do, RHM. First step, admit you have a problem—not to me, to her. Then refrain from masturbating. Just don't do it. Refrain from beating off until you've broken your dysfunctional jerk-and-regret cycle, commit to only having orgasms in her presence, and initiate long, open-ended conversations about your turn-ons, her turn-ons, your sexual expectations, her sexual expectations.

Masturbation will, of course, be part of your adult, married life. All men masturbate—single dating, married, divorced—but a man who prefers masturbation over sex at all times isn't husband material, RHM; he's ex-husband material.

I am 28, female, and bi. My fiancé is 36, male, and straight.

Before we got together, I was notorious for FFM threesomes and occasionally sleeping with my female friends. He made it clear that being with him meant no more sex with other women. "Cheating is cheating," he says, and he's not into threesomes. It's

a long-term, nonnegotiable deal breaker for him.

But recently, while traveling, I met up with an old female "friend." The sexual chemistry was still strong. We got a little drunk, kissed, cuddled, and slept in the same bed. I didn't mention it to my fiancée because I felt like it wasn't really a big deal. Now I'm not so sure. Throughout our

relationship I've satisfied my desires for women with lesbian/bi erotica and masturbation, and I've been fine with that. But now I'm having sexual dreams about this girl and waking up feeling horny and guilty. It's been three years since I had sex with a woman and I miss it. Should I talk to my fiancée about this before the wedding?

Bi Bi Bridie

Oh for crying out loud. YES, YOU SHOULD TALK TO HIM ABOUT THIS BEFORE THE WEDDING. Talk about your bisexuality, his irrational ultimatum, the fact that you've already come this close (picture me holding my thumb and index finger a clitoris width apart) to

SAVAGE cont'd pg. 13

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MY MESSY BEDROOM JOSEY VOGELS
**KATE BORNSTEIN THINKS
 GENDER GOES BEYOND "MALE"
 AND "FEMALE"**

Kate Bornstein has been described as a pioneer, an outlaw, and an activist out to dismantle the gender system.

Her 1995 book *Gender Outlaw: On Men, Women and the Rest of Us* was revolutionary for raising awareness of gender politics. Since then she has been writing, touring, speaking and performing on the subjects of sex positivism, outlaw survival, alternatives to teen suicide, and how to deal with bullies. Kate was born biologically male and underwent gender reassignment surgery in 1986. She is 60 years old and lives with her partner—sex pioneer, writer and performance artist Barbara Carrellas—in New York City. She was in Toronto to perform her show "On

Men, Women and the Rest of Us" and we sat down for a chat.

Describe the term queer?

Queer is sex positive and pro gender anarchy. It doesn't have to do with who you're having sex with so much as it has to do with having sex, enjoying sex, and enjoying the gender you are or are becoming and enjoying others genders as they present themselves.

What do you mean by "gender anarchy?"

My first book was called *Gender Outlaw* because I knew there were rules of gender, every culture has them, but no culture writes them down. In North America, the rule is that there are only two genders and that part of definition of man is "loves woman" and part of definition of woman is "loves man." As soon as you have that built into a culture and it's unquestionable, then anyone who doesn't do that isn't a real man or woman, but is a freak who should be slapped around or even murdered. Being a "gender anarchist" means breaking these gender rules.

What was your personal jour-

ney to becoming a "gender anarchist?"

I knew that I wasn't a boy from age four and I felt that meant that I was a girl because there weren't any other choices, at least I never saw any. I didn't like being a boy, and everything about being one was pretending, I had to watch other boys to see what they were doing. As I grew up, I tried everything to prove I was a

[which she says with a laugh and a big smile on her face.] The difference is a sense of humour.

How have gender politics influenced the broader culture in terms of how we think of gender?

In terms of everyone thinking, "Oh, that's not a woman or a man, ho-hum," I won't see that in my lifetime.

want to or to not have it if they don't. To have it with whom they want to, to be free to buy it or sell it, have it in public or with lots of people. Don't be mean is the only rule. Because sex at its peak is chaotic and as soon as you put limits on it, it dumbs it down.

When you ask someone to identify their sexuality it's dumb. So, what if you identify as a straight woman, does that automatically mean you

I KNEW THAT I WASN'T A BOY FROM AGE FOUR AND I FELT THAT MEANT I WAS A GIRL BECAUSE THERE WEREN'T ANY OTHER CHOICES, AT LEAST I NEVER SAW ANY. I DIDN'T LIKE BEING A BOY, AND EVERYTHING ABOUT BEING ONE WAS PRETENDING.

guy—I became first mate on a ship, was married three times, have a daughter, and none of it made me feel like a man. Finally, I said the heck with it and became a woman.

Then the same thing started happening—I felt like I was pretending, I was watching women, asking them how they do the girl thing and that was my beginning of learning about gender politics. I realized I'm not a woman and I'm not a man, which at first it was horrible—I was like, "Oh my god, I'm such a freak!" Now it's like, "Oh my god, I'm such a freak!"

And it's not that I want gender to become ho-hum. Some people think that when I say to hell with gender, I'm saying everyone should be androgynous, that everyone should look plain. Nooooo, I just want not calling yourself a man or a woman not to be such a freaky thing.

What would you want for the future for those who identify as queer?

There should be freedom of choice, and right now there is no freedom of choice when it comes to sex and gender. We should be teaching kids that they can have sex any way they

love all men? That's just not true, and reducing human sexuality to this kind of simplicity limits the opportunity to unleash whole range of sexual expression. As far as I'm concerned, when it comes to sex, there are too many answers, not enough permission.

Kate online

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page 33

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SAVAGE (cont'd from pg. 61)

cheating on him already—address all this shit before you two dumbfucks get married.

I'm sorry for flying off the handle, BBB, but I debated an antigay rant on CNN last week after the California Supreme Court ruled that same-sex couples had a constitutional right to marry. The hater—Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council—insisted that high rates of heterosexual divorce are proof that gay people shouldn't be allowed to marry. I'm not sure how that works exactly. I mean, when a group of people have proven themselves to be incapable of touching something without totally fucking it up—heterosexuals and marriage, Republicans and government—it doesn't make sense to insist that the screwups, and only the screwups, should be allowed to touch that thing. Maybe the solution for marriage/governance is to ban heterosexuals/Republicans from marrying/governing—or at least suspend them for a while—and let someone else have a crack at it. Christ.

Back to you, BBB: Before you mar-

ry this man, you need to hammer out an agreement, something you both can live with—and you can't live without pussy. An accommodation has to be made or you will ultimately cheat on this man and your entirely predictable divorce will be held up by douchebags like Tony Perkins as proof that my boyfriend and I shouldn't be allowed to marry.

I'm madly in love with my girlfriend. She's beautiful, intelligent, progressive, and has a bum that makes me bite my knuckles every time she takes off her pants. Serious "the one" potential here. One problem: My girlfriend is adamant that she will not get married until everyone, regardless of sexual orientation, is free to marry. So where do I sign up to fight for equal marriage rights? What can a newbie like me do to help?

Adam In British Columbia

So... your girlfriend isn't going to get married until everyone can—including, presumably, gay men in Saudi

Arabia (where they cut the heads off gay men), lesbians in Jamaica (where they lynch lesbians), and homos in Russia (where fascist thugs beat homos in front of the police). So you might not want to set a wedding date anytime before, oh, June of the year 2608.

Please tell your girlfriend from me, a geigh, that we don't want straight people to stop getting married—divorced, yes; married, no—particularly straights up in Canada, where everyone already can get married. If she wants to do something concrete about equal marriage rights, tell her to make a large donation to www.equalityforall.com, the group in California that is working to defeat an anti-gay-marriage amendment to California's state constitution that will be on the ballot this fall. Her donation would actually be helpful. Her stand is useless.

Download the Savage Lovecast (my weekly podcast) every Tuesday at www.thestraighter.com/savage.

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CRUISIN' THE COSMOS

PISCES (FEBRUARY 19 – MARCH 20)

Whether you're desperate, angry or seriously soused, there's no sense in makin' a bum deal like Faust. It's a mug's game 'cause you sell your soul for control, but it still ends up the same. You didn't bring nothin' with you at your life's start and that's what you're takin' when it's time to part!

ARIES (MARCH 21 – APRIL 19)

A close call is only a stall. It gives you a chance to stop 'n' think but unless you change the way that you're headed, it's only an omen for somethin' more dreaded. If you don't find out what that somethin' might be, start plannin' your course a lot more prudently!

TAURUS (APRIL 20 – MAY 20)

As the symbolic farmer of the zodiac signs, you're well aware that growin' crops takes some time. It's especially true when you move to a new field 'cause you need to carefully analyze conditions to maximize yield. You may even need to plant a whole different seed this week to succeed!

GEMINI (MAY 21 – JUNE 20)

Right now you've got extra energy to expend and it almost seems to be without end. You could burn it off by applyin' the surplus to partyin' and such, but in the long run that won't accomplish too much. This week, the more you sink into generous deeds, the more you'll take care of your long-term needs!

CANCER (JUNE 21 – JULY 22)

The wishin' well's one wonderful watery metaphor, but ask yourself this week what a wishin' well would wish for. Why would you wanna worry about what it would be? Well, it's a good question for you 'cause by the time this week's through, all the wishes you've granted'll turn the tables on you!

LEO (JULY 23 – AUGUST 22)

The best thing about bein' poor is it gets your butt in gear so you won't be poor no more. That and the fact you'll be open to almost any idea that could help you to look poverty in the eye and say "see ya!" This week, keep an open mind and you'll soon find a way outta your bind!

VIRGO (AUGUST 23 – SEPTEMBER 22)

It tested your mettle but now the dust's startin' to settle and the flower of life's gone from nettles to petals. Now that don't mean that your labourin' is done, but most o' the hard work is, so you can afford to have fun. This week enjoy how far you've come and allow yourself to do somethin' dumb!

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 23 – OCTOBER 22)

Diplomacy ain't exactly the art of givin' in. Give 'n' take is the root concept of compromise and there's no way that applies if all you receive are broken promises and lies. This week don't lay down, stand up and fight before your lack of action gives up your right!

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 23 – NOVEMBER 21)

It's one thing to struggle for somethin' that's right and another to battle just 'cause you like to fight. The former is filled with noble honour and the latter'll speed you to bein' a goner. This week, take fightin' seriously 'cause failin' to do so'll 'cause you mucho misery!

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 22 – DECEMBER 21)

If your cup runneth over, don't keep lettin' all o' that good grog grace only the ground – start spreadin' your wealth all around. The more of it that you try to hoard, the more your karma'll be ignored. And at the end of the cosmic day, it's good karma that's gonna pay!

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 22 – JANUARY 19)

Outta all the earth signs, the goat tends to take the most risks. It ain't 'cause you're a big crazy daredevil, it's just that you don't get much of a challenge when everything's on the level. Don't take a setback this week as if it were a slap, it's 'cause you're so good at your game, you need a handicap!

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 20 – FEBRUARY 18)

Some folk are completely content to deal with change. Other folk don't take no crap and change the deal. For example, most folk accept increases in gas prices, insurance rates and repair costs. Some tell the car to get lost and instead ride a bike, then soon start to see their health and wealth spike!

You can contact The Kid at cruisinthecosmos@hotmail.com

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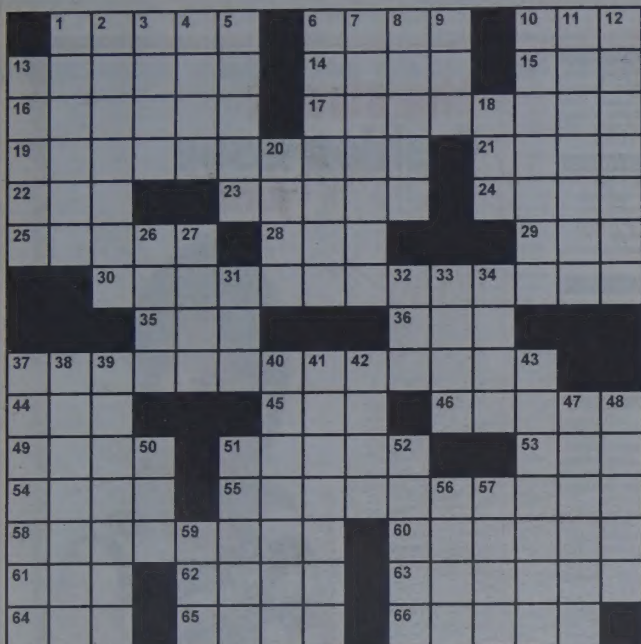
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S T S B R A S B A R T H
T O M M Y T H O M P S O N
O N E W A Y A T A N
C A R L C A R L T O R V I A
H O R K N E E O U T I N G
E M I E T R I A L E A N T O
R I D R I S T E L W O O D
SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

OUT WITH THE OLD

YOU KNOW THE REST

JONESIN' CROSSWORD BY MATT JONES

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ACROSS

- 1 Word before compass or hazard
- 6 Machine parts
- 10 6-0, sometimes
- 13 Beer to drink on Cinco de Mayo
- 14 States of wrath
- 15 ___kwon do
- 16 Comes up
- 17 Maker of women's shoes and handbags
- 19 He predated Johnny Depp as Willy Wonka
- 21 Noted Yanni song
- 22 "Here Come the Warm Jets" composer Brian
- 23 Zombie novelist Brian
- 24 Actor Casper Van ___
- 25 The L.A. area and environs
- 28 2000 gynecolectist title role for Richard Gere
- 29 Shear's alma mater
- 30 City driving hassles
- 35 Right away
- 36 Ger., Nor., etc.
- 37 Statement made after a break-up, maybe
- 44 No, in Scotland
- 45 Quarterback Manning
- 46 "For ___" ("Seriously?")
- 49 Japanese sport
- 51 Biological building blocks
- 53 Actor Stephen
- 54 Mining samples
- 55 Rugged individualists
- 56 Oenophile's love

DOWN

- 1 Ritrà of "The Electric Company"
- 2 Venezuelan river in an Enya title
- 3 Thorny flower
- 4 From the beginning
- 5 Eye surgery option
- 6 Full of spout
- 7 Aligns
- 8 Video store aisle, often
- 9 Dir. opposite NNW
- 10 Like good operating rooms
- 11 Least complicated
- 12 Shot given after stepping on a nail
- 13 Zoo containers
- 18 Stack of cash
- 20 ___ charmed life
- 26 Part of A.D.
- 27 Revolutionary Trotsky
- 31 "SmackDown!" org.
- 32 "This is ___ suck" (133t-speak phrase)
- 33 River that passes through Essen, Germany
- 34 Superior mate?
- 37 To such an extent (as)

- 60 Van Cleef & ___ (French jewelry house)
- 61 Do something
- 62 Oscar-winning actor Burl ___
- 63 1980s-90s NBA player John
- 64 ___ Speedwagon
- 65 Julia Roberts, in "Ocean's Eleven"
- 66 Like day-old donuts
- 38 French actor Chevalier
- 39 Wacky DJ Dr. ___
- 40 Children
- 41 Sick situation
- 42 Mah-jongg piece
- 43 English metaphysical poet Andrew
- 47 Actress Sobieski of "The Wicker Man"
- 48 Full of lip
- 50 Sweet suffix
- 51 "Gosford Park" actor Owen
- 52 Q-tips, for example
- 56 "The one and only true love ___ least it seems" (CeCe Peniston, "Finally")
- 57 Juli Inkster's org.
- 59 Cleverness

Tom the
Dancing
Bug

THE PASSIVE AGGRESSOR

KNOWN TO THE WORLD MERELY AS LOUIS MALTBY, THE PASSIVE AGGRESSOR'S SECRET BRINGS HIM UNFATHOMABLE POWER, BUT ALSO HARDSHIPS SO FEARSOME, THEY WOULD CRUSH AN ORDINARY MAN!

LOUIS, PLEASE REMEMBER TO PUT THE GARBAGE OUT.



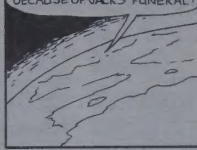
IT WILL BE MY PLEASURE!



LOUIS, COME ON! THERE'S NO REASON TO BE ANGRY!



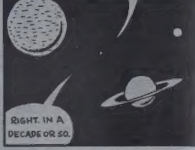
WHAT! I SAID I'D DO IT!



YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THAT WE CAN'T DRIVE YOU BECAUSE OF JACK'S FUNERAL!



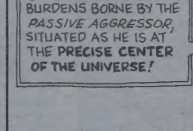
I KNOW! OBVIOUSLY, IT'S NO PROBLEM, MOM!



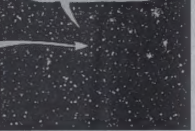
THERE WILL BE OTHER CAR SHOWS.



OH, STOP IT! NOW, THERE'S TURKEY IN THE FRIDGE FOR LUNCH!



THIS ARE THE AWESOME BURDENS BORNE BY THE PASSIVE AGGRESSOR, SITUATED AS HE IS AT THE PRECISE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE!



GREAT. THAT'S TOTALLY ROCKIN', MOM!

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INTERSECTIONS • PHOTOS OF OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS



Dana Anderson (left) and Brydon McGhee plant trees for the city on Grant Way in south west Edmonton on Wednesday May 28, 2008. PHOTO BY IAN JACKSON

t5t

FIRST PERSON • EDMONTON STORIES • BY GAYLEEN FROESE | 663 words

The Unspoken Blood Bargain

MY ATTEMPT AT HAEMO-PHILANTHROPY
ENDS IN HEARTBREAK

About 80 per cent of the time, when I'm told I'm "so funny," I'm not kidding at all.

A case in point:

A few weeks ago, I decided it was time to give. Blood. I'd always had a flu or something during previous blood drives, but this time I was healthy and excited about doing my duty.

During the screening, I was told I had a blood pressure of 114 over 64. 120/80 is normal and 0/0 is dead. I was closer to normal than dead, so no problem.

There wasn't a problem until I'd given three quarters of a unit. Since one unit of blood is said, on average, to save two lives, I had just saved one

and a half lives.

That was when I began to feel wrong.

I call it "wrong." Doctors call it "hypovolemia." It's when your blood pressure drops so far that your body protects the internal organs and blood leaves your hands, feet, and head.

"Do you feel like you're gonna puke?" the nurses asked.

I nodded, and they raised the head of the chair to put a bag in front of my face.

"Do you feel like you're gonna pass out?"

I nodded again, and they raised my feet.

"Gonna puke? Gonna pass out?"

Gonna puke?"

The chair was rocking so quickly, it could have been a new ride at the Capital Ex.

They had taken the needle from my arm, dooming some poor bastard to having only half his life saved. I didn't care, because I was experiencing a new sensation. It was the feeling, to put it nicely, of the things inside wanting to become the things outside. I needed a toilet.

I was put in a wheelchair and

"Don't stand up," she warned. "I won't be able to catch you."

My feet had also gone to sleep, which was fine while I was hunched with a bag in my hands, listening to the staff debating whether to call an ambulance. It was less fine once I felt better. How was I supposed to hold onto the walls and pull my pants up at the same time?

Eventually, my feet woke up. I got my pants on. Someone apologized and I said, hey, there are people who

ing I donated blood to get a cookie, but I'd been looking forward to my snack.

"I can give you soup," the nurse said. I stared at her.

"Okay," I said. "But also, cookie."

"Dad's oatmeal cookies?"

"The real cookie," I told her. "Big thick chocolate chip cookie. After what I just went through, I am for damned sure having a cookie."

And I was, once again, "so funny." We all learned things, that day,

MY FEET HAD ALSO GONE TO SLEEP, WHICH WAS FINE WHILE I WAS HUNCHED WITH A BAG IN MY HANDS, LISTENING TO THE STAFF DEBATING WHETHER TO CALL AN AMBULANCE. IT WAS LESS FINE ONCE I FELT BETTER. HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO HOLD ONTO THE WALLS AND PULL MY PANTS UP AT THE SAME TIME?

wheeled past horrified donors to the recovery room, which had a small, non-wheelchair accessible washroom. I recall mocking them for this, between cramps, which shows that my last words on Earth will probably be something like "Nice hair."

Some poor nurse was tasked with sitting next to me while I lost a few pounds, and she crouched there for so long that her feet went to sleep.

pay for that kind of experience. And someone said I was so funny, which was fair because that actually was a joke.

After I'd been sitting and drinking water for awhile, a nurse asked how I was feeling.

"I feel like having a cookie," I said. Edmonton blood donors always talk up the cookies. Thick. Chewy. Big chunks of chocolate. I'm not say-

about blood pressure and hypovolemia and narrow bathroom doors. But, if those nurses take one thing from the experience, I hope it's this:

When someone has just spent an hour frightened, dizzy, nauseated, and emptying her tank in front of half a dozen strangers, and she tells you to get her a cookie, she is not kidding around.

Hope to it.

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